



CRIME AND JUSTICE

Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2021-22

This bulletin presents National Statistics on crimes and offences recorded by the police in Scotland in 2021-22. Statistics on recorded crimes and offences provide a measure of the volume of criminal activity with which the police are faced. This does not reveal the incidence of all crime committed as not all crimes are reported to the police.

This bulletin is the first edition to present crime statistics using the new set of crime and offence groups approved by the [Scottish Crime Recording Board](#), following a [public consultation](#) of users. Responses to this consultation were published in March 2022 alongside [a report outlining a package of changes to the production of Scotland's recorded crime statistics](#). The changes include the introduction of a new set of crime and offence groups and categories, as well as improvements to the format and design of this annual bulletin. The largest change is the transfer of Common assault and Stalking from the Miscellaneous offences group to the Non-sexual crimes of violence group, and by extension the recorded crime total for Scotland. To maintain time series analysis, all data has been back-revised. More information on the new crime grouping structure is provided in [Annex 5](#).

It should also be noted that the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, and associated measures to limit social contact, continues to have an impact on both the type and volume of crime recorded since March 2020. A larger impact was seen during the previous year (2020-21), with this reporting year of 2021-22 also affected, albeit to a lesser extent. More information is presented in the [Coronavirus restrictions crimes chapter](#).

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Key points

Between 2020-21 and 2021-22:

- Crimes recorded by the police in Scotland decreased by 4%, from 299,452 to 286,464. This fall was driven by a 81% reduction in crimes recorded under Coronavirus related legislation (from 20,976 to 3,913). All other crimes collectively increased by 1%. The recording of crime is at the lowest level seen since 1974.
- Non-sexual crimes of violence increased by 12%, from 61,913 to 69,286. This was driven by a rise in Common assault (also up 12%), which makes up the clear majority (84%) of all Non-sexual crimes of violence recorded in 2021-22.
- Sexual crimes increased by 15%, from 13,131 to 15,049. These crimes are now at the highest level seen since 1971, the first year for which comparable groups are available.
- Crimes of dishonesty increased by 4%, from 89,731 to 92,873. The recording of these crimes is at the second lowest level seen since 1971.
- Damage and reckless behaviour crimes increased by 3%, from 42,964 to 44,284. The recording of these crimes is at the second lowest level seen since 1976.
- Crimes against society decreased by 14% from 70,737 to 61,059. Most of these crimes relate to drug possession, crimes against public justice or weapons possession (used and not used).

Offences recorded by the police in Scotland collectively decreased by 3%, from 187,233 to 180,913. This included a reduction in Antisocial offences (down 3%), Miscellaneous offences (down 5%) and Road traffic offences (down 4%).

Police recorded cyber-crime in Scotland

This bulletin also provides an updated estimate of how many cyber-crimes were recorded in Scotland.

Key Points:

- In 2021-22, an estimated 14,280 cyber-crimes were recorded by the police in Scotland. This is similar to the estimated 14,860 cyber-crimes recorded in 2020-21, but remains a large increase compared to the estimated 7,710 cyber-crimes recorded in 2019-20.
- Part of the increase since 2019-20 may be due to the significant impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, including behavioural changes such as increased online shopping.
- Cyber-crimes accounted for an estimated 28% of Sexual crimes in 2021-22, 9% of Crimes of dishonesty and 3% of Non-sexual crimes of violence.

Official Statistics on Clear up rates

In addition to the National Statistics on police recorded crimes and offences, this bulletin also presents Official Statistics on crimes and offences cleared up by the police in 2021-22. A definition of clear up rates is provided in the [clear up rates chapter](#).

Crimes recorded under Coronavirus related legislation are excluded from these statistics, as a bespoke and separate data collection is used by the police to capture these cases.

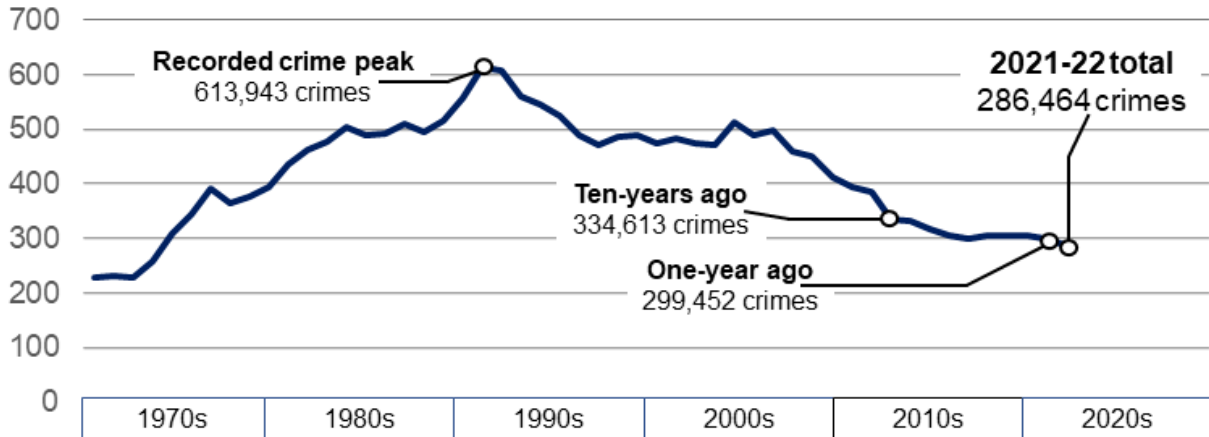
In 2021-22 the clear up rate was 54.0%, down from 59.3% in 2020-21, and similar to 54.9% in 2019-20. The increase in 2020-21 likely reflected the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the types of crime recorded, with the volume of those crimes that have relatively lower clear up rates falling more sharply than those with relatively higher clear up rates.

The fall back to 54.0% in 2021-22 reflects a partial return to the volume of different crime types recorded in the year prior to the pandemic (2019-20), albeit clear up rates have still fallen for each of the individual crime groups. This included Non-sexual crimes of violence (down from 72.1% to 67.1%), Sexual crimes (58.4% to 53.5%) and Crimes of dishonesty (37.9% to 31.6%).

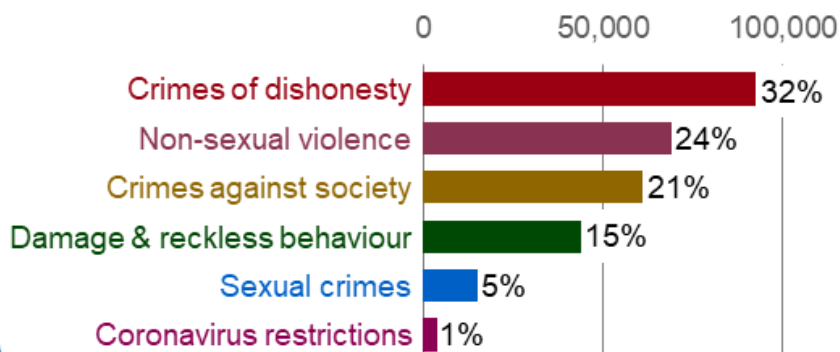
Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2021-22

The number of crimes recorded by the police rose steadily from the 1970s to the early 1990s; since then crime has generally fallen

Number of recorded crimes in Scotland, 1971 to 2021-22



A third of recorded crime is Crimes of dishonesty



An estimated

40%

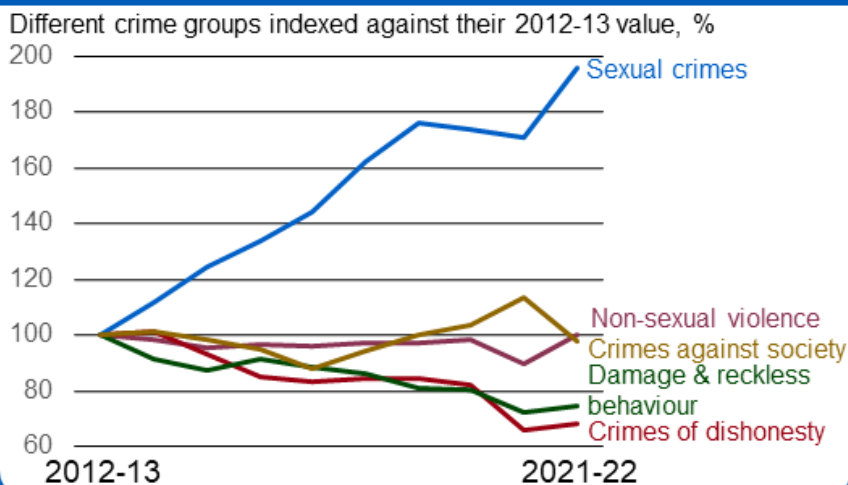
of crime is reported to the police¹

An estimated

5%

of recorded crime is cyber-dependent or cyber-enabled²

Ten-year trends vary by crime group



Recorded Sexual crimes have increased by

96%

in the last ten years

Introduction

This bulletin presents statistics on the number of crimes and offences recorded by Police Scotland. These are derived from data held within the Source for Evidence Based Policing (SEBP), a data repository used and maintained by Police Scotland.

What changes were made to this year's report?

Changes have been made to this year's report as follows:

- A new crime and offence grouping structure has been used for the first time
- Following enactment of the [Protection of Workers \(Retail and Age-restricted Goods and Services\) \(Scotland\) Act 2021](#), new crimes of Serious Assault of a Retail Worker and Common Assault of a Retail Worker, and a new offence of Threaten or Abuse Retail Worker, came into effect on 24 August 2021. These are included for the first time in this bulletin

Further information on the new crime grouping structure and legislative changes can be found in [Annex 3](#), [Annex 5](#) and in the [User Guide](#).

What is Recorded Crime?

Recorded crime covers crimes which are recorded by the police. Crimes and offences recorded by the police do not reveal the incidence of all crime committed since not all crimes are reported to, and therefore recorded by, the police. However, they do provide a measure of the volume of criminal activity with which the police are faced.

What is the difference between 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". 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. This distinction has been consistently used in the Recorded Crime in Scotland bulletins since publication began in 1983 and, prior to this, in the Criminal statistics publication dating back to the 1920s.

A further distinction, although not absolute, is that the number of offences recorded by the police generally tends to be affected more by police activity and operational decisions than the numbers of crimes.

As highlighted above, a new crime and offence grouping structure is used in this bulletin. This was approved by the [Scottish Crime Recording Board](#) (SCRB) following a [public consultation](#) of users. [Annex 5](#) gives an overview of these changes and their impact on the statistics presented in this publication. The [User Guide](#) also provides further information.

There are over 500 types of crimes and offences recorded by police in Scotland. To present these in a meaningful way, they are combined into distinct groups and categories. There are now six crime groups and three offence groups. These groups are made up of 50 categories, referred to as the 'Top 50'.

Figure 1: Breakdown of crime and offence groups

Crimes

- Non-sexual crimes of violence
- Sexual crimes
- Crimes of dishonesty
- Damage and reckless behaviour
- Crimes against society
- Coronavirus restriction crimes (*new group since 2019-20*)

Offences

- Antisocial offences
- Miscellaneous offences
- Road traffic offences

What changes were made to the recording of crime in recent years?

There have been several changes in recent years that have had an impact on the recording of crime. These reflect either the enactment of new legislation or procedural changes made by the SCRB ([Annex 3](#)). Changes that have occurred in the latest five years (2017-18 to 2021-22) include:

- A procedural change to the counting of crimes of Handling an offensive weapon, from 1 April 2017
- An amendment to the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, which classified Etizolam as a Class C drug, from May 2017 (estimated to account for 14% of Drugs – Possession crime in 2019-20¹)
- The implementation of the Abusive Behaviour and Sexual Harm (Scotland) Act 2016, which came into effect from 3 July 2017
- The Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018, which came into force on 1 April 2019
- The Coronavirus Act 2020 and Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Restrictions) (Scotland) Regulations 2020, implemented on 25 March and 27 March 2020 respectively
- A procedural change made to the recording of international crime, from 1 April 2020
- The implementation of the Protection of Workers (Retail and Age-restricted Goods and Services) (Scotland) Act 2021, which came into effect from 24 August 2021

Some of the above amendments led to changes in how crimes are recorded but did not change the volume of crime being recorded. For example, before implementation of the

¹ [Drug seizures and Offender Characteristics, 2018-2019 and 2019-20](#)

Protection of Workers Act, any assault of a retail worker would have been recorded as either a Common or Serious assault. After implementation, such cases are now specifically recorded as either Common or Serious assault of a retail worker. In another example, some incidents that were recorded as Stalking prior to the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 coming into force, may now be recorded as crimes under the Domestic Abuse Act.

Other amendments did result in new and additional crimes being recorded within these statistics, following their implementation. For the 2021-22 reporting year, the most significant by volume were the 2017 changes to recording crimes of Handling an offensive weapon (5,888 cases). Almost four thousand crimes were also recorded under the Coronavirus related legislation, introduced in 2020.

Information on the recording of crimes affected by the above changes is provided in the relevant chapters of this bulletin. The [User Guide](#) provides more detailed information on these and earlier changes to the recording of crime.

How has the COVID-19 pandemic impacted recorded crime?

The nationwide lockdowns and other measures put in place to limit social contact during the COVID-19 pandemic are very likely to have had a significant impact on the type and volume of crime recorded throughout this period. The largest impact was seen during 2020-21, with 2021-22 also likely to be affected, albeit to a lesser extent. However, some caution is advised before necessarily attributing all of the changes to this situation. For example, longer term trends in some types of offending, which existed prior to the pandemic, may remain a factor.

This year's bulletin contains a number of crimes relating to Coronavirus restrictions, which were recorded under specific Coronavirus legislation. There were 3,913 such crimes recorded in 2021-22, a significant reduction from 20,976 in 2020-21. These crimes are included within the total recorded crime figure for Scotland, though are presented separately to the five main crime groups.

How do Recorded Crime statistics compare to the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey?

The other main source of crime statistics in Scotland is the [Scottish Crime and Justice Survey \(SCJS\)](#), a national survey of adults (aged 16 and over) living in private households, which asks respondents about their experiences and perceptions of crime.

The survey provides a complementary measure of crime to police recorded crime statistics and allows a wider assessment of the overall level of crime victimisation, its characteristics, and likelihood of experiencing crime. The SCJS estimates that 40% of all SCJS crime in 2019-20 came to the attention of the police, a proportion which is stable over time. This confirms that not all crimes are reported to, and therefore recorded by, the police.

Data for 2019-20 is the latest available from the SCJS, due to face-to-face interviewing being paused in March 2020 to support social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic. Both the SCJS and police recorded crime show a long term downward trend in overall comparable crime, with a more stable pattern over the shorter term. Specifically, the survey found that the volume of crime in Scotland, including incidents not reported to the police, fell by 46% since 2008-09 (from an estimated 1,045,000 incidents to 563,000 by

2019-20) and has remained stable compared to 2018-19. Similarly, crimes recorded by the police in 2019-20 decreased by 35% since 2008-09, and remained stable compared to 2018-19.

To fill the evidence gap created by the SCJS suspension, previous respondents to the SCJS were re-contacted by phone for a one-off survey of experiences and perceptions of crime, safety and policing in Scotland during the pandemic – the [Scottish Victimisation Telephone Survey \(SVTS\) 2020](#). Further detail on the analytical comparisons between recorded crime, the SVTS and the SCJS is provided in Chapter 5 of the previous [2020-21 Recorded Crime in Scotland bulletin](#).

Future Recorded Crime in Scotland bulletins will provide updated comparisons with SCJS findings when these become available.

The [User Guide](#) provides an overview of the main differences users may want to note when making comparisons between Recorded Crime statistics and the SCJS.

What comparisons can be made with other data sources?

When considering crime data across the UK, recorded crime statistics for England & Wales and Northern Ireland are not directly comparable with those in Scotland. The main principles for when a crime should be recorded are similar in all four nations. However there are various differences between the respective Counting Rules, which specify each nation's approach for counting the number of crimes that should be recorded as part of any single incident. Furthermore, differences in legislation and common law also have an impact on the comparability of recorded crime statistics between Scotland and the other UK nations.

Further detail on the comparability of crime data can be found in the [User Guide](#).

Some 'Data comparisons' are presented within this bulletin. These are clearly marked throughout the text and include information from a range of statistics (e.g. homicide, hospital admissions etc.) which cannot be directly compared to police recorded crime but are useful to understand the wider context.

Where can you find the data from this report?

All tables referred to throughout the bulletin are available in the '[Supporting documents](#)' Excel workbook. The workbook includes an 'Introduction' sheet, with information on how to navigate the tables, alongside a 'Notes' sheet, with relevant details to assist users when reading and interpreting results. The Excel workbook mostly covers data for the last ten years.

The data is also available on [statistics.gov.scot : Recorded Crimes and Offences](#) and [statistics.gov.scot : Crime Clear up Rates](#). These include data back to 1996-97.

What is known about the quality of this data?

[Annex 2](#) provides information on the quality of the data used to produce the statistics presented in this bulletin. This includes information on the results of [Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland \(HMICS\) Crime Audit 2020](#), which assessed the extent to which police recording practices complied with the [Scottish Crime Recording Standard and Counting Rules](#).

What are these statistics used for?

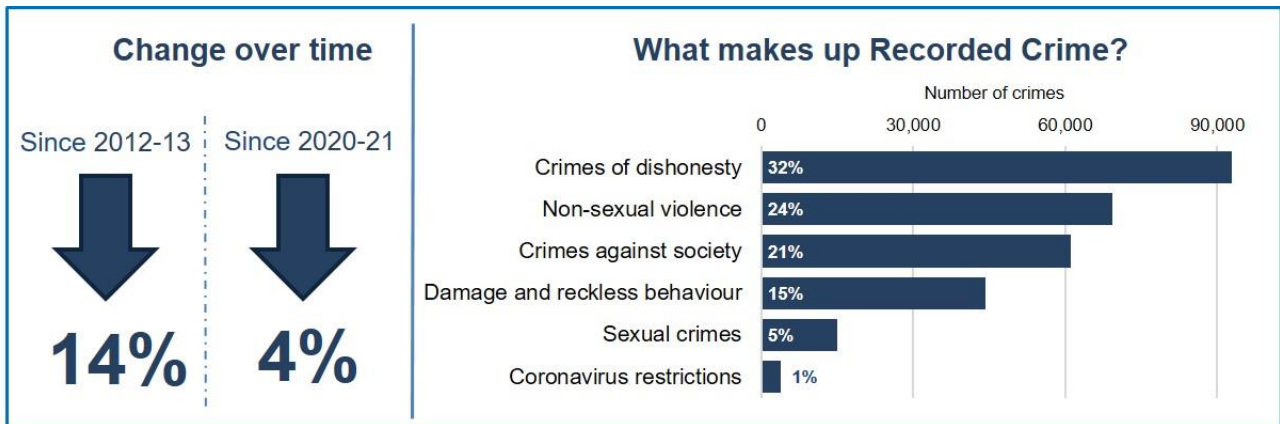
Statistics on recorded crime and offences inform the Scottish Government's [Vision for Justice in Scotland](#). This was published in February 2022 and sets out a transformative vision for the whole justice system in Scotland. The 2022 strategy outlines how the Scottish Government will transform the justice system, through recovering from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

Further information on users and uses of the statistics is provided in the [User Guide](#).

This bulletin is useful for longer term time series analysis, and presents a detailed commentary on crime and offences recorded during the 12 month period of 1 April to 31 March. To provide users with more timely data, which can help to identify any shorter term changes, the SCRB have approved the introduction of a new quarterly release of recorded crime National Statistics. These will present findings for the latest rolling 12-month period, of which the year-ending 31 March edition will continue to be this longer term annual bulletin.

The next quarterly release, for the year ending 30 June 2022 (Q1 2022), is scheduled for publication in August 2022. More information on the new quarterly release is available in the [User Guide](#).

Total Recorded Crime



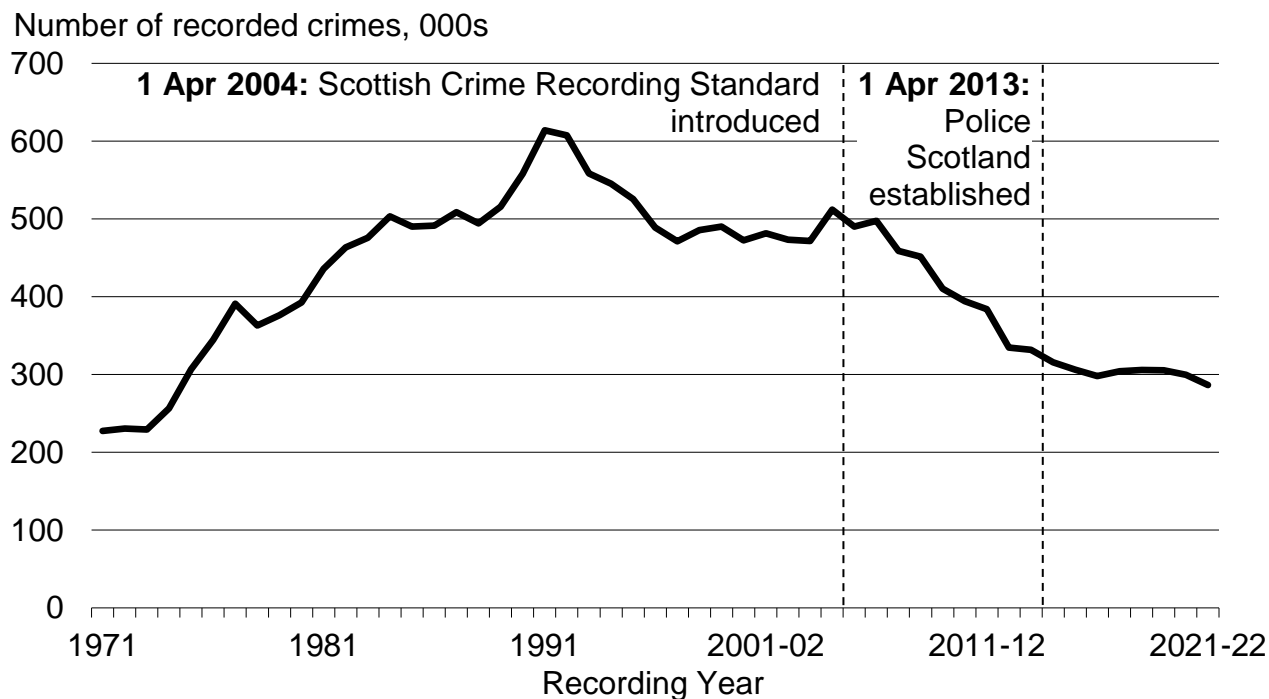
The recording of crime is at the lowest level seen since 1974. The total number of crimes recorded by the police in Scotland in 2021-22 was 286,464. This is 12,988 crimes (or 4%) lower than the level recorded in 2020-21.

Over the past ten years, total recorded crime in Scotland has decreased by 14%. This continues a generally decreasing trend in recorded crime over the longer term, from a peak in 1991 when crime reached a record high of 613,943.

[Chart 1](#) shows the total number of recorded crimes since 1971.

Legislative changes and changes to crime recording practices will have had some effect on the longer term time series for recorded crime. [Annex 3](#) provides information on these changes.

Chart 1: Total crimes recorded by the police, 1971 to 1994, 1995-96 to 2021-22



Note: Data are incomplete for 1975 due to local government reorganisation.

[Chart 2](#) shows the number of recorded crimes for each crime group since 1971, and gives an indication of the scale of crimes recorded in each group.

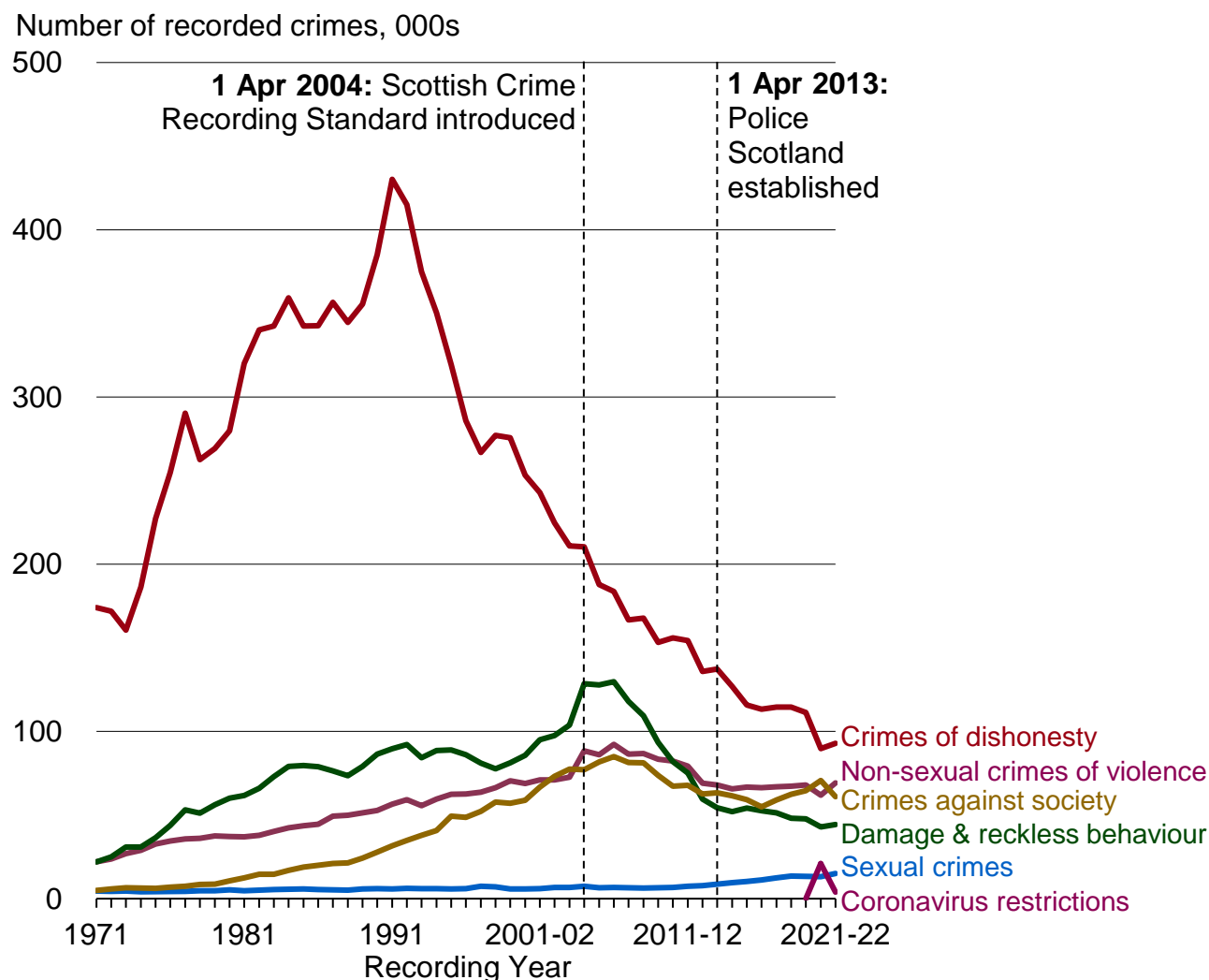
In 2021-22, of all recorded crimes:

- Crimes of dishonesty was the largest group, accounting for 32%
- Non-sexual crimes of violence accounted for 24%
- Crimes against society accounted for 21%
- Damage and reckless behaviour accounted for 15%
- Sexual crimes accounted for 5%
- Crimes relating to Coronavirus restrictions accounted for 1%

These crime groups are discussed in more detail in the following chapters.

The national rate of total recorded crime was 524 crimes per 10,000 population in 2021-22. This has decreased from 548 in 2020-21.

Chart 2: Crimes recorded by the police by crime group, 1971 to 1994, 1995-96 to 2021-22



Note: Data are incomplete for 1975 due to local government reorganisation.

Total Recorded Crime by Local Authority

Notwithstanding that year-on-year figures can fluctuate across local authorities, the long term trend of decreasing crime is broadly the same across Scotland.

Since 2012-13, most local authorities have seen a reduction in total recorded crime. Only four (Dumfries and Galloway, Dundee City, East Lothian and Scottish Borders) have seen an increase.

Since 2020-21, twenty-four local authorities have seen a decrease in total recorded crime. Eight have seen an increase.

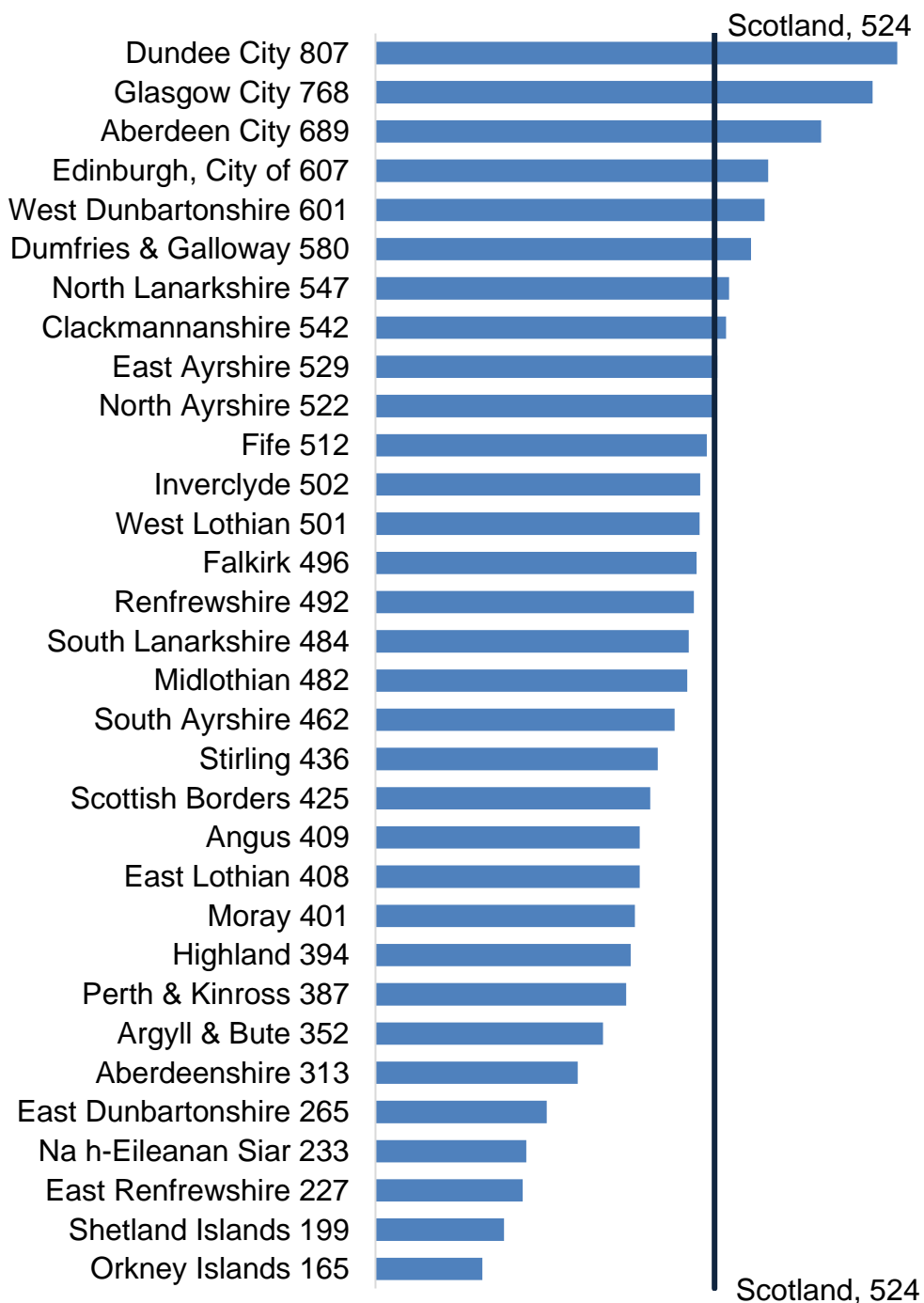
Table 1 in the '[Supporting documents](#)' Excel workbook provides the number of crimes recorded in each local authority over the past ten years.

[Chart 3](#) shows the number of recorded crimes per 10,000 population in each local authority in 2021-22.

In Scotland as a whole, there were 524 recorded crimes per 10,000 population in 2021-22. Dundee City (807 per 10,000 population), Glasgow City (768 per 10,000 population) and Aberdeen City (689 per 10,000 population) recorded the highest rates.

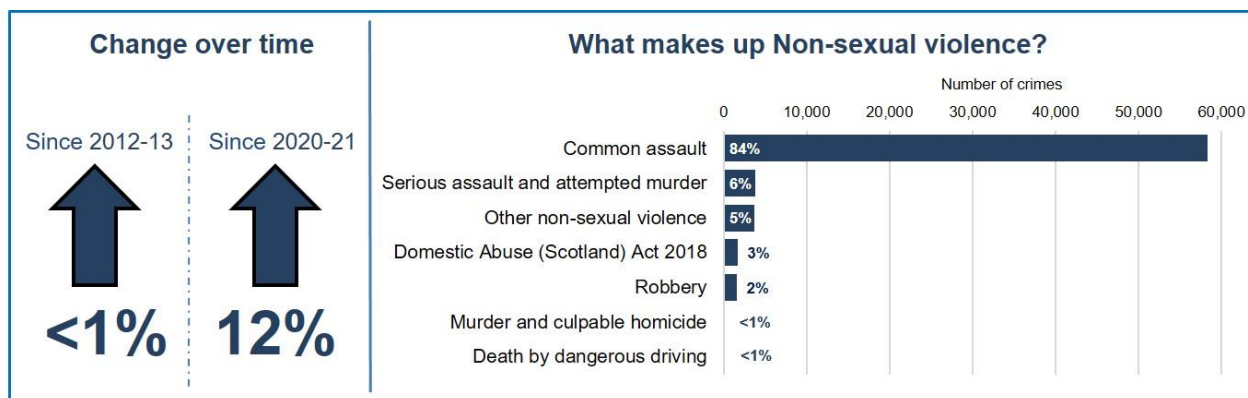
Table 4 in the '[Supporting documents](#)' Excel workbook provides further details on the number of crimes recorded per 10,000 population in each local authority over the past ten years.

Chart 3: Total number of recorded crimes per 10,000 population¹, 2021-22



1. Due to 2021 mid-year population estimates from the National Records of Scotland being published after the release of the Recorded Crime in Scotland 2021-22 bulletin, the [2020 mid-year population estimates](#) have been used to calculate the 2021 population rates.

Non-sexual Crimes of Violence



The Non-sexual crimes of violence group has been greatly impacted by the new crime grouping structure, used for the first time in this year’s bulletin. This is due to Common assault and Stalking being reclassified as crimes rather than offences, and being included in this crime group. As noted above, this change has been back-revised within the statistics to maintain time series analysis.

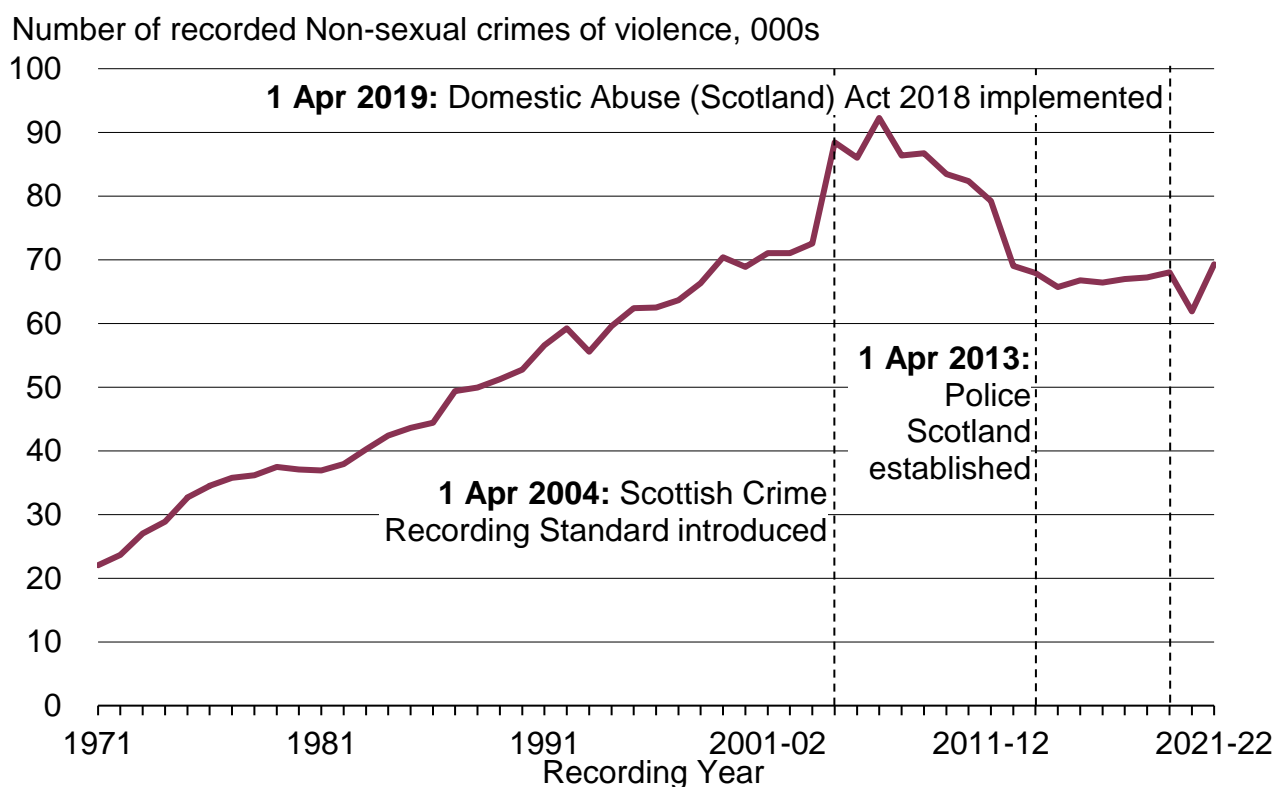
Non-sexual crimes of violence accounted for almost a quarter (or 24%) of all crimes recorded in Scotland in 2021-22. Between 2020-21 and 2021-22, the number of Non-sexual crimes of violence recorded by the police in Scotland increased by 12%, from 61,913 to 69,286.

As a result of the new crime grouping structure, the clear majority (84% in 2021-22) of Non-sexual crimes of violence are now crimes of Common assault. Due to the size of this crime category within the group, any changes to the trend in Common assault will significantly impact the trend for the group as a whole. As such, the 12% increase in Non-sexual crimes of violence in this latest year, is primarily due to a 12% increase in Common assault.

This is the third year of new crimes being recorded within the Non-sexual crimes of violence group, under the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 – following its enactment on the 1 April 2019. There were 1,760 such crimes recorded in 2021-22, accounting for 3% of Non-sexual crimes of violence.

[Chart 4](#) below shows the number of Non-sexual crimes of violence from 1971 onwards. Levels of violent crime increased for a long period, before entering a downward trend following a peak in 2006-07. There has been a 25% reduction in Non-sexual crimes of violence since 2006-07. Looking at the latest ten years, the number of Non-sexual crimes of violence has remained broadly stable (increasing by less than 1%), from 69,028 in 2012-13 to 69,286 in 2021-22.

Chart 4: Non-sexual crimes of violence recorded by the police, 1971 to 1994, 1995-96 to 2021-22



Note: Data are incomplete for 1975 due to local government reorganisation.

The national rate of recorded Non-sexual crimes of violence increased from 113 to 127 crimes per 10,000 population between 2020-21 and 2021-22.

In 2021-22, of all Non-sexual crimes of violence:

- Common assault made up the vast majority, accounting for 84%
- Serious assault and attempted murder accounted for 6%
- Other non-sexual violence accounted for 5%
- Crimes under the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 accounted for 3%
- Robbery accounted for 2%
- Murder and culpable homicide and Causing death by dangerous driving both contributed very small proportions (both less than 0.5%) to the total

[Chart 5](#) shows the number of Common assault crimes recorded over the latest ten years. This is presented separately from all other categories within Non-sexual crimes of violence due to the larger scale of crimes recorded in this category.

[Chart 6](#) presents all other crime categories within Non-sexual crimes of violence over the latest ten years, and gives an indication of the trend and scale of each category.

Chart 5: Common assault recorded by the police, 2012-13 to 2021-22

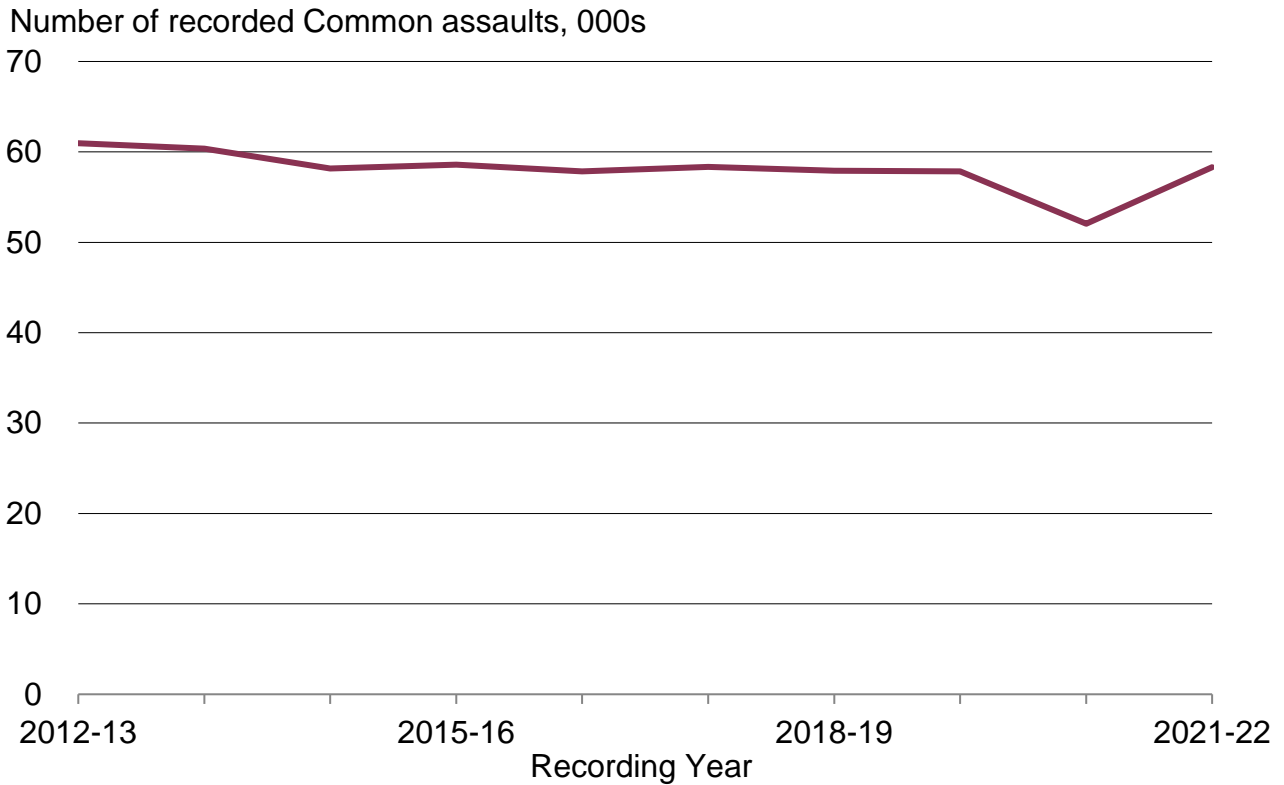
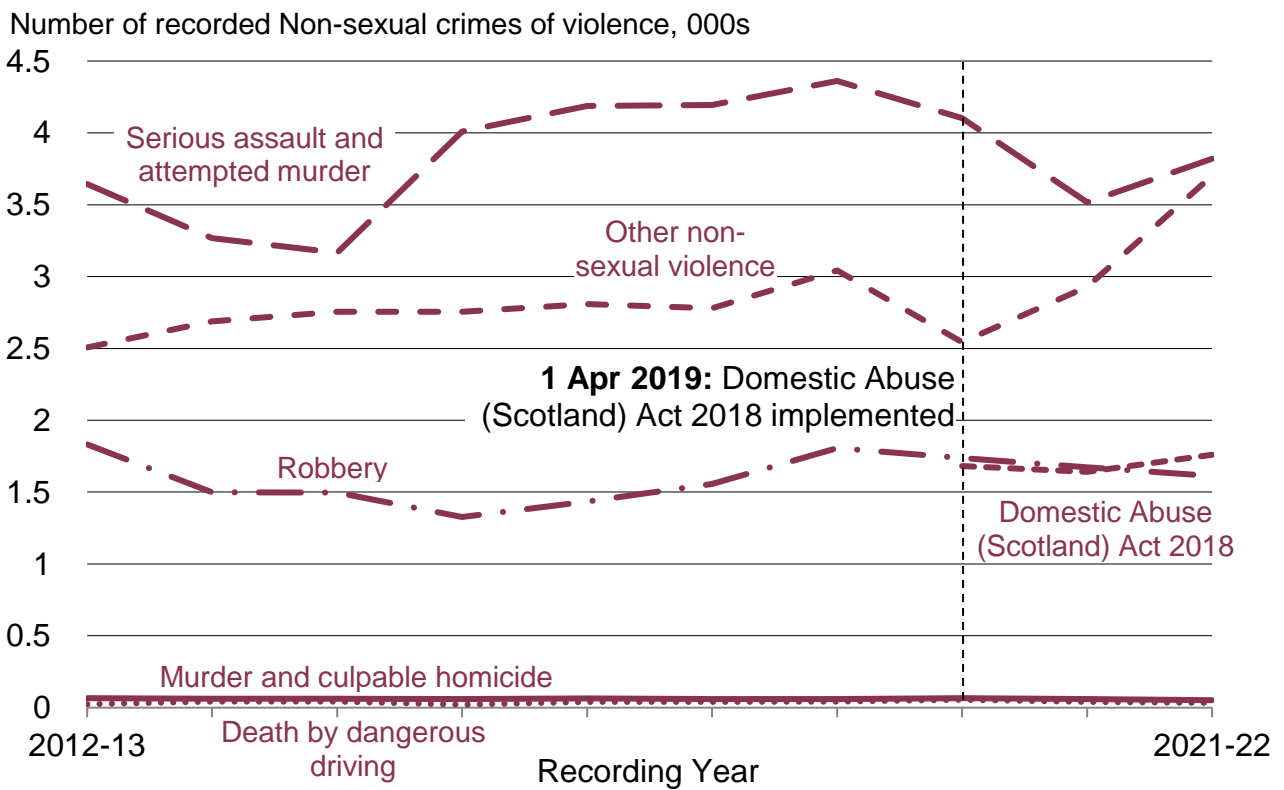


Chart 6: Non-sexual crimes of violence (excluding Common assault) recorded by the police, by category, 2012-13 to 2021-22



The following sections discuss in more detail the trends for each crime category within the Non-sexual crimes of violence crime group. These are:

Non-sexual crimes of violence

- Murder and culpable homicide
- Death by dangerous driving
- Serious assault and attempted murder
- Common assault
- Robbery
- Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018
- Other non-sexual violence

Further details for some categories can be found in the ['Supporting documents'](#) Excel workbook.

Murder and culpable homicide

Murder and culpable homicide accounted for a very small proportion (less than 1%) of Non-sexual crimes of violence. Crimes recorded in this category decreased by 21% over the ten year period from 2012-13 to 2021-22. This includes a 15% decrease between 2020-21 and 2021-22, from 61 to 52 recorded crimes.

Data comparisons: Homicide in Scotland National Statistics

The Scottish Government produce a separate [Homicide in Scotland statistics](#) bulletin. It contains detailed information on the crimes of Murder and Culpable homicide (common law). It presents characteristics of victims and accused, such as age and gender and the circumstances of the homicide. Users interested in Homicide statistics should use the Homicide in Scotland statistics bulletin.

The latest bulletin reports on the year of 2020-21. The data showed a decrease in the number of homicide cases compared to 2019-20, from 65 to 55. This was the lowest number since comparable records began in 1976.

Death by dangerous driving

Causing Death by dangerous driving accounted for a very small proportion (less than 1%) of Non-sexual crimes of violence. Crimes recorded in this category increased by 36% over the ten year period from 2012-13 to 2021-22. However there has been a 13% decrease in the most recent year, from 39 crimes recorded in 2020-21 to 34 in 2021-22.

Serious assault and attempted murder

Serious assault and attempted murder accounted for 6% of Non-sexual crimes of violence. Crimes recorded in this category increased by 9% between 2020-21 and 2021-22, from 3,518 to 3,819. Over the ten year period from 2012-13 to 2021-22, this category has seen an increase of 5%, from 3,643 to 3,819.

These crimes fell between 2012-13 and 2014-15, before rising sharply in 2015-16 and then more gradually in the years that followed up to 2019-20. At least part of the increase in 2015-16 was attributed by Police Scotland to the introduction of enhanced guidance for recording Serious assault in January 2015. These crimes then fell over 2019-20 and 2020-21, before increasing again in 2021-22. The latest figure remains 12% lower than the peak in 2018-19.

For the definition of Serious assault and the distinction between Serious assault and Common assault please see [Annex 1](#).

We previously published the findings of a more detailed [study into Attempted murder & serious assault](#) on our website.

One subset of the Serious assault and attempted murder category is the crime of Serious assault of retail worker, which came into effect on the 24 August 2021. This was introduced by the [Protection of Workers \(Retail and Age-restricted Goods and Services\) \(Scotland\) Act 2021](#). As such, the first statistics for 2021-22 only relate to a partial year. There were eight crimes recorded during this time. More information on this new legislation is provided in [Annex 3](#).

Data comparisons: Public Health Scotland Emergency Hospital Admissions as a result of Assault

Another source of statistics on assault is Public Health Scotland's annual publication on hospital admissions due to unintentional injuries. This includes the number of emergency hospital admissions for assault.

The latest published figures are for 2020-21 and are available at: [Unintentional injuries - Hospital Admissions: Year ending 31 March 2021 - Public Health Scotland](#)

There are several reasons why direct comparisons cannot be made between the two sources. For example, not all who attend hospital with assault injuries will report what has happened to the police, and many recorded assaults will not require inpatient hospital treatment. However, as these sources both generally relate to how Scotland's emergency services respond to the most serious types of assault, it would be anticipated that both should show similar trends over time.

Looking at the latest ten year period for which statistics are available from both sources, there were 1,891 emergency hospital admissions as a result of assault in 2020-21, of which 496 were due to assault with a sharp object and 1,412 were other assaults (including guns)². This represents a 57% fall in the total number of emergency admissions due to assault since 2011-12, including a 47% reduction in emergency admissions due to assault with a sharp object. This comparison confirms that the reduction in police recorded crimes of serious assault and attempted murder between 2011-12 and 2020-21 (by 25% from 4,693 to 3,518) has also been broadly reflected in statistics for emergency admissions to hospital. Whilst the reduction in admissions is larger than that for recorded crime, the change in guidance for crimes classed as serious assaults in 2015 may have had an impact on these figures.

² Total may not equal the sum of individual injuries as a person may be admitted with more than one type of injury.

Common assault

As discussed above, Common assault has been reclassified as a crime under the Non-sexual crimes of violence group. As a result, Common assault is now the largest category of Non-sexual crimes of violence, accounting for 84% in 2021-22. Over the ten year period from 2012-13 to 2021-22, the number of crimes recorded in this category has fallen by 4%. However, there was a 12% increase between 2020-21 and 2021-22 (from 52,052 to 58,306). This reversed the reduction seen in 2020-21, which itself may have been due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and associated measures to limit social contact.

Of the 58,306 crimes recorded in 2021-22, 7,858 (13%) related to Common assault of emergency workers, a decrease of 3% since 2020-21 and an increase of 21% since 2012-13. Another subset of the Common assault category is the crime of Common assault of retail worker. 786 crimes (1% of all Common assault) related to Common assault of retail workers. As noted in the Introduction, the crime of Common assault of retail worker came into effect on the 24 August 2021. This was introduced by the [Protection of Workers \(Retail and Age-restricted Goods and Services\) \(Scotland\) Act 2021](#). As such, the first statistics for 2021-22 only relate to a partial year. More information on this new legislation is provided in [Annex 3](#).

Robbery

Robbery accounted for 2% of Non-sexual crimes of violence. Over the ten year period from 2012-13 to 2021-22, this category has seen a decrease of 12%. Following increases between 2016-17 and 2018-19, there have been decreases for the past three years. There was a 4% decrease between 2020-21 and 2021-22 (from 1,673 to 1,613).

We previously published the findings of a more detailed [study into Robbery](#). Further information is available on our website.

Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018

Crimes recorded under the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 accounted for 3% of Non-sexual crimes of violence. There were 1,760 crimes recorded under the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 in 2021-22, the third year this legislation has been in place. This was a 7% increase compared to 2020-21 (from 1,641 to 1,760).

Of those crimes, 92% (or 1,627) involved a female victim and 8% (or 133) had a male victim. These proportions are similar to those in the previous year, at 94% and 6%, respectively.

It should be noted that crimes under the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 relate to a course of conduct only and therefore do not include all crimes relating to domestic abuse.

[Annex 2](#) provides information on the results of HMICS Crime Audit 2020, which also examined a sample of incidents relating to domestic abuse.

Data comparisons: Official Statistics on Domestic Abuse recorded by the police in Scotland

Statistic presented in this bulletin are the primary source for users interested in the number of crimes recorded under the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018.

However, separate analysis of domestic abuse incidents reported to the police, is presented in the [Domestic abuse: statistics recorded by the police in Scotland](#) Official Statistics bulletin. This is produced by the Scottish Government and contains details of domestic abuse incidents and crimes recorded by Police Scotland, including characteristics of victims and perpetrators, such as their age and gender.

The next Domestic abuse recorded by the police in Scotland bulletin will contain data for 2021-22 and will be published in November 2022.

Other non-sexual violence

The Other non-sexual violence category has been impacted by the new crime grouping structure. Stalking has been added to this category with the change back-revised in the data to maintain time series analysis (it was previously classified as an offence in the Miscellaneous offences group).

The Other non-sexual violence category includes a wide range of crime types, albeit just five accounted for 94% of the 3,702 crimes recorded in 2021-22. This included Threats & extortion (38% of all Other non-sexual crimes), Stalking (23%), Cruelty to & unnatural treatment of children (15%), Drugging (12%) and Abduction (7%). More detail on the crimes included is provided in the [User Guide](#).

Crimes recorded as Other non-sexual violence accounted for 5% of Non-sexual crimes of violence in 2021-22. Over the ten year period from 2012-13 to 2021-22 this category has seen an increase of 48%, including an increase of 26% from 2,929 in 2020-21 to 3,702 in 2021-22

The 26% increase in 2021-22 was primarily due to increases in crimes of Drugging (from 18 in 2020-21 to 444 in 2021-22) and Threats & extortion (from 946 in 2020-21 to 1,398 in 2021-22). The [Monthly Official Statistics](#) on recorded crime showed that the increase in Drugging was not evenly spread across the year – it began in October and peaked in November. After this there was a downward trend. The increase in recorded crimes of Drugging may be at least in part due to the significant coverage on national and social media of the issue of spiking during the autumn of 2021.

Ninety percent of crimes of Threats and extortion were estimated to be cyber-crimes in 2021-22 (further information on this is available in the [Cyber-crime chapter](#)).

Sexual Crimes



The only impact on Sexual crimes of the new grouping structure used in this bulletin is the introduction of more detailed categories. This includes the splitting of the previous Other sexual crimes category into the five new categories of:

- Causing to view sexual activity or images
- Communicating indecently
- Threatening to or disclosing intimate images
- Indecent photos of children
- Other sexual crimes

Sexual crimes account for 5% of all crimes recorded in Scotland in 2021-22. The number of Sexual crimes recorded by the police in Scotland increased by 15% from 13,131 in 2020-21 to 15,049 in 2021-22.

[Chart 7](#) below shows the number of Sexual crimes from 1971 onwards. Sexual crimes have been on a long-term upward trend since 1974, with some fluctuations. Prior to small decreases in 2019-20 and 2020-21, there had been increases each year since 2008-09.

The national rate of recorded Sexual crimes was 28 crimes per 10,000 population in 2021-22, up from 24 per 10,000 population in 2020-21.

A number of legislative and procedural changes should be kept in mind when reviewing trends in Sexual crimes over the longer term. These are presented in [Annex 3](#).

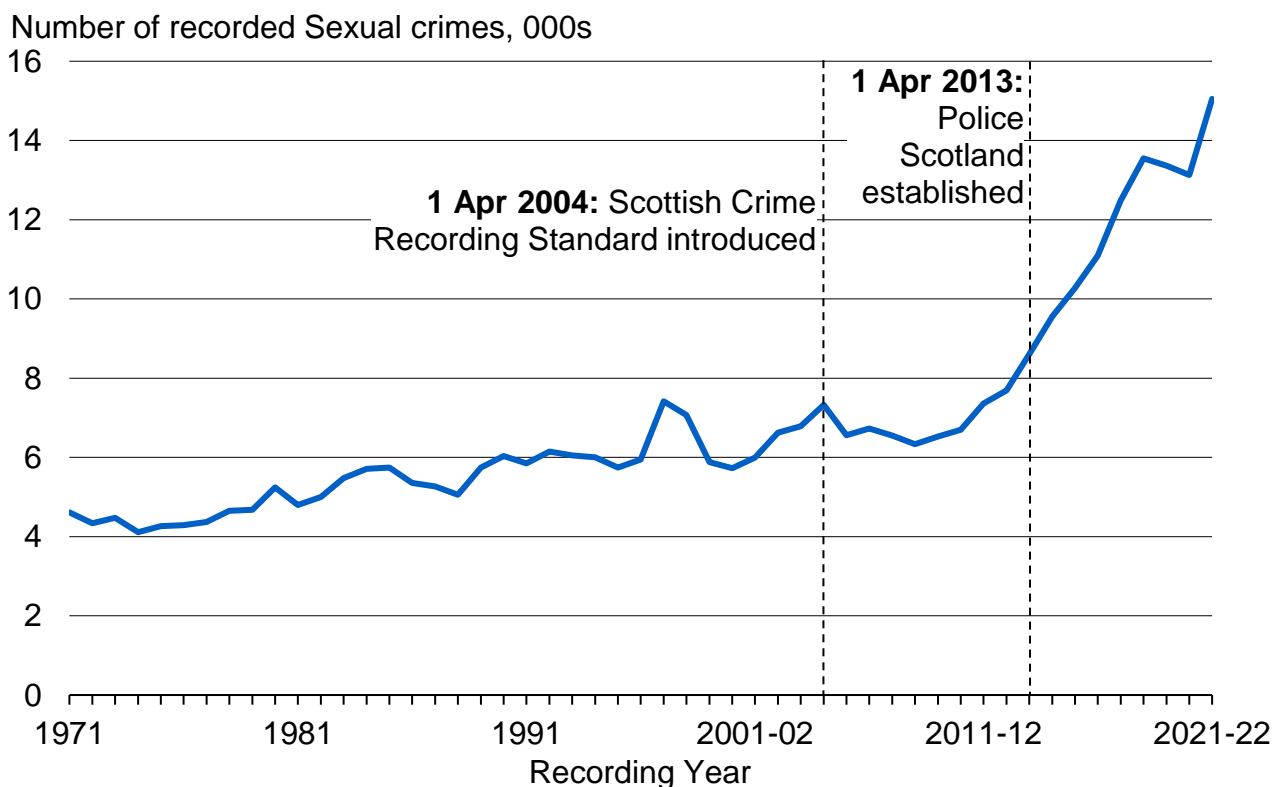
In addition to these changes, the issue of historical reporting of sexual crime also continues to play a role in the latest statistics. Further information from Police Scotland suggests that just under a quarter (23%) of Sexual crimes in 2021-22 were recorded at least one year after they occurred. This figure is similar to the previous year. Furthermore, as discussed below, the use of specific codes to record sexual crime also highlights where these cases are historical.

There were 878 crimes of Lewd and libidinous practices in 2021-22. These crimes should all relate to offences which occurred prior to the implementation of the Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009 on 1 December 2010, as the Act replaced Lewd and libidinous practices with specific sexual assault crimes. As a result, we know that these are historical

(non-recent) offences. Similarly, there were 203 crimes of Sexual assault committed prior to 1 December 2010.

The increase in sexual cyber-crimes has also had an impact on the trend of recorded Sexual crimes in recent years. We estimate that the volume of Sexual crimes that were cyber-crimes has increased from 1,100 in 2013-14³ to 4,210 in 2021-22 (further information on this is available in the [Cyber-crime chapter](#)).

Chart 7: Sexual crimes recorded by the police, 1971 to 1994, 1995-96 to 2021-22

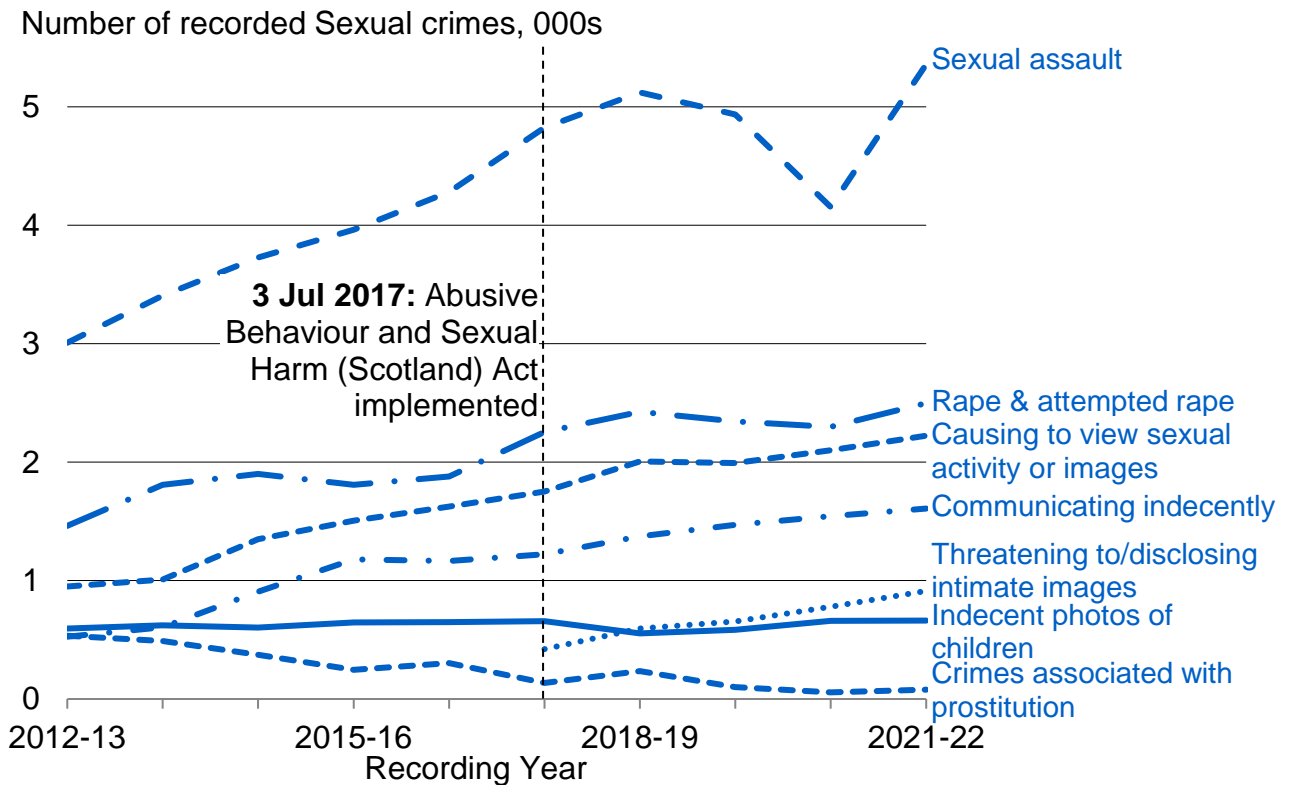


The specific age of the victim cannot generally be determined from the data supplied by Police Scotland. However, many of the sexual crime codes used by the police to record crime are based on specific age groupings in line with the legislation (for example, Sexual assault of older male child (13-15 years)). This will include where the perpetrator targets someone they believed to be a child (for example, through cyber-enabled sexual crime). By adding up all these crime codes, we know that at least 37% of the 15,049 Sexual crimes recorded in 2021-22 by the police related to a victim under the age of 18. This proportion is similar to recent years.

[Chart 8](#) shows the categories within Sexual crimes over the last ten years, and gives an indication of the trend and scale of each category.

³ [Recorded crime in Scotland: 'Other sexual crimes', 2013-2014 and 2016-2017](#)

Chart 8: Sexual crimes recorded by the police, by category, 2012-13 to 2021-22



In 2021-22, of all Sexual crimes:

- Sexual assault accounted for 36%
- Rape & attempted rape accounted for 17%
- Causing to view sexual activity or images accounted for 15%
- Other sexual crimes and Communicating indecently accounted for 11% each
- Threatening to or disclosing intimate images accounted for 6%
- Indecent photos of children accounted for 4%
- Crimes associated with prostitution accounted for less than 1%

It should be noted for data prior to 2010-11 that the implementation of the [Sexual Offences \(Scotland\) Act 2009](#) had an impact on the recording of crimes in this group. Further information on this change is available in [Annex 3](#).

Table A1 in the '[Supporting documents](#)' Excel workbook contains more detailed breakdowns for Sexual crimes.

The following sections discuss trends for each crime category comprised in the Sexual crimes group. These are:

Sexual crimes

- Rape & attempted rape
- Sexual assault
- Causing to view sexual activity or images
- Communicating indecently
- Threatening to or disclosing intimate images
- Indecent photos of children
- Crimes associated with prostitution
- Other sexual crimes

Rape & attempted rape

Rape & attempted rape accounted for 17% of Sexual crimes. After an upward trend from 2012-13 to 2018-19, there has been decreases in both 2019-20 and 2020-21. However, there was a 9% increase in the most recent year, from 2,298 crimes in 2020-21 to 2,498 in 2021-22.

Sexual assault

Sexual assault accounted for 36% of Sexual crimes. After an upwards trend from 2012-13 to 2018-19, there have been decreases in both 2019-20 and 2020-21. However, there was a 29% increase in the most recent year, from 4,154 crimes in 2020-21 to 5,359 in 2021-22.

Causing to view sexual activity or images

Causing to view sexual activity or images accounted for 15% of Sexual crimes. After an upwards trend from 2012-13 to 2018-19, there has been some fluctuation in 2019-20 and 2020-21. There was a 6% increase in the most recent year, from 2,101 crimes in 2020-21 to 2,223 in 2021-22.

Communicating indecently

Communicating indecently accounted for 11% of Sexual crimes. These crimes have seen an upwards trend over the last decade. There was a 4% increase in the most recent year, from 1,543 crimes in 2020-21 to 1,608 in 2021-22.

Threatening to or disclosing intimate images

Threatening to or disclosing intimate images accounted for 6% of Sexual crimes. This category includes crimes being recorded under the [Abusive Behaviour and Sexual Harm \(Scotland\) Act 2016](#), which was implemented on 3 July 2017. Since then, these crimes have seen an upwards trend. There was a 17% increase in the most recent year, from 780 crimes in 2020-21 to 912 in 2021-22.

Indecent photos of children

Indecent photos of children accounted for 4% of Sexual crimes. These crimes have seen some fluctuation over the last decade. The number of crimes recorded has remained broadly stable in the most recent year, with 660 in 2020-21 and 662 in 2021-22.

Crimes associated with prostitution

Crimes associated with prostitution accounted for a very small proportion of Sexual crimes, at less than 1%. Over the ten year period from 2012-13 to 2021-22, these crimes have seen a large fall of 85%. There has been an increase in the most recent year, from 56 crimes recorded in 2020-21 to 80 in 2021-22 (43% increase).

Almost a third (31%) of the crimes recorded in 2021-22 were in the Glasgow City area, with a further 24% recorded in Aberdeen City.

Other sexual crimes

Other sexual crimes accounted for 11% of Sexual crimes.

The Other sexual crimes category includes a wide range of crime types. The largest by volume in 2021-22 was Voyeurism⁴, accounting for just under a third (32%) of all crimes recorded in the Other sexual crimes category in 2021-22 (547 crimes). More detail on the crimes included is provided in the ['Supporting documents'](#) Excel workbook and in the [User Guide](#).

This category has been on an upward trend for some time, with crimes increasing from 618 in 2012-13 to 1,707 in 2021-22 (up 176%). This also includes an 11% increase in the most recent year, from 1,539 crimes recorded in 2020-21 to 1,707 in 2021-22.

The sections below include information that should be considered to widen contextual understanding of the data provided on Sexual crimes. Detail is provided on limited comparisons with recorded crime in England & Wales and Northern Ireland. Further detail on the type of information available from the SCJS on sexual crime is also included.

Data comparisons: Recorded Crime in England & Wales and Northern Ireland

While recorded crime in Scotland is not directly comparable with England & Wales or Northern Ireland due to differences in legislation and counting rules, there are some signs of increases in police recorded sexual crimes across the UK in recent years⁵. This reflects a number of factors, including the impact of high-profile incidents, media coverage and campaigns on people's willingness to report incidents to the police, as well as a potential increase in the number of victims. Similarly, sexual offences have shown an upwards trend

⁴ While most victims of these crimes will be persons aged 16 or over, the provisions of these sections will also covers offences against children aged 13 or over where the perpetrator is under the age of 16.

⁵ [Crime in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk)

in Northern Ireland⁶, with the most recent quarter (Jan-Mar 2022) showing the highest quarterly figure over the last ten years.

Data comparisons: Self-completion modules in the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS)

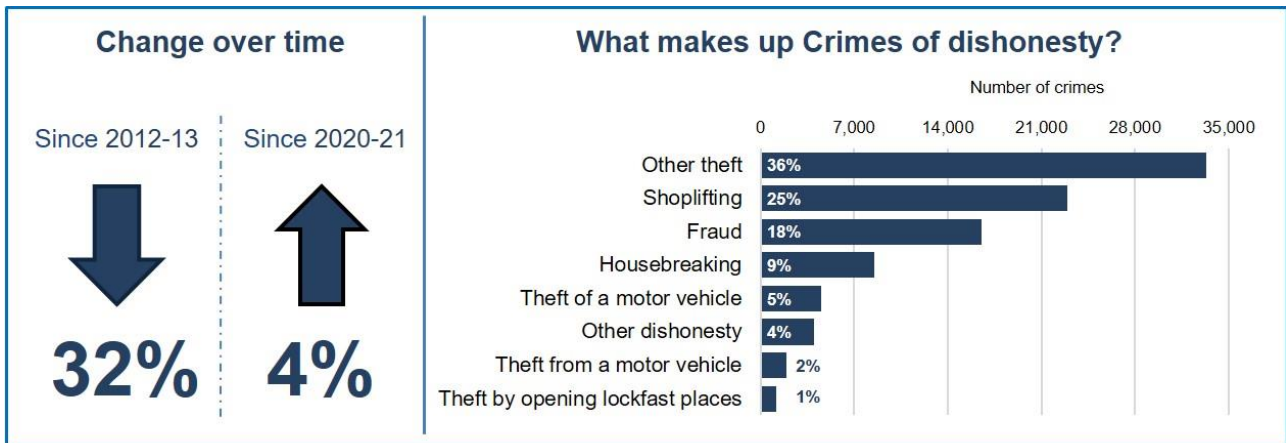
Detailed information on the victims of sexual crime is not collected in the main Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS). Information on sensitive topics is collected through a number of additional self-completion sections. Some of these sections include information on sexual crime. For example, the self-completion elements of the 2018-19 and 2019-20 surveys included questions on sexual victimisation, stalking and harassment, and partner abuse. The survey found that in 2018-20:

- there have been some increases in the proportion of adults experiencing certain types of sexual victimisation since 2008-09
- almost one-in-eight adults (11.8%) experienced at least one type of stalking and harassment
- 16.5% of adults said they had experienced at least one incident of partner abuse since the age of 16, but these have decreased since 2008-09

The findings are included in the [2019-20 SCJS Main Findings report](#).

⁶ [Police Recorded Crime in Northern Ireland Monthly Update \(psni.police.uk\)](#)

Crimes of Dishonesty

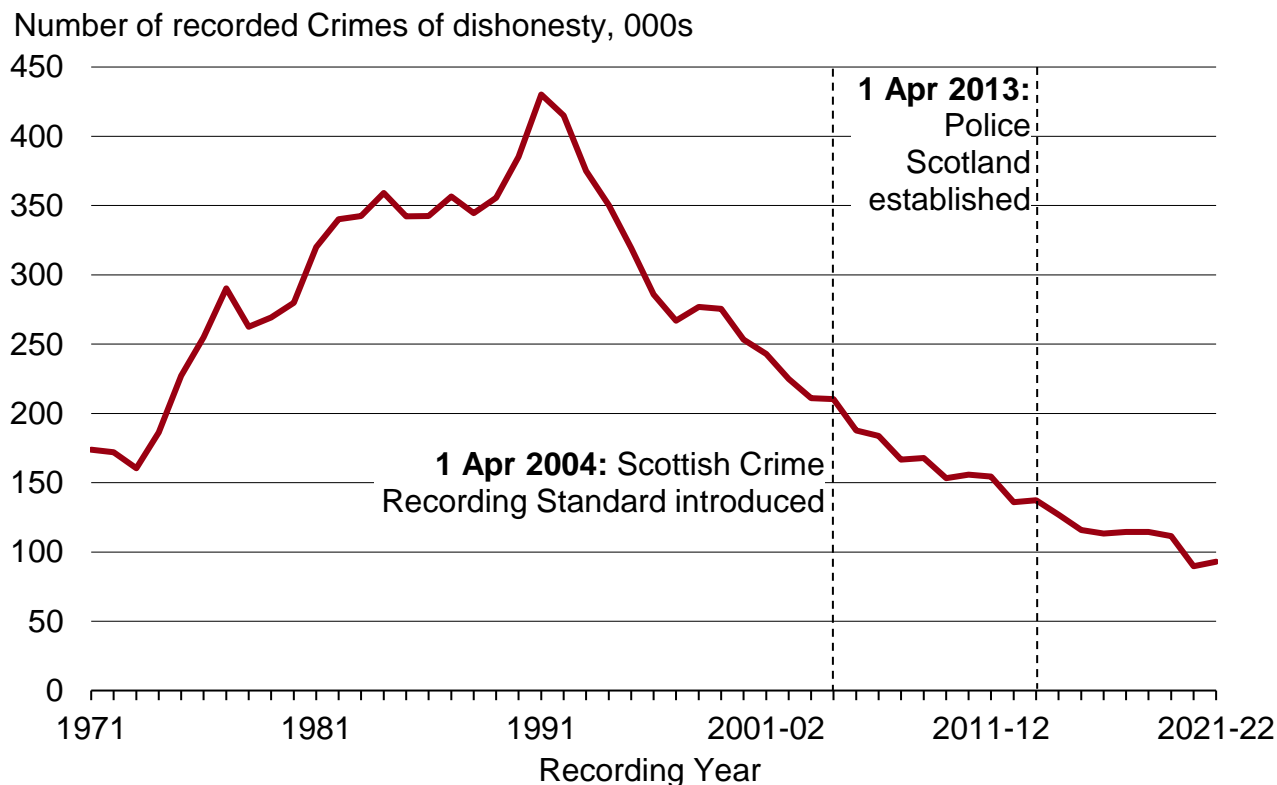


The Crimes of dishonesty group has not been impacted by the new crime grouping structure, used for the first time in this year's bulletin.

Crimes of dishonesty is the largest crime group, accounting for just under a third (32%) of all crime recorded in Scotland in 2021-22. Between 2020-21 and 2021-22, the number of Crimes of dishonesty recorded by the police in Scotland increased by 4%, from 89,731 to 92,873.

[Chart 9](#) below shows the number of Crimes of dishonesty from 1971 onwards. Crimes of dishonesty increased for a long period since 1971 and peaked in 1991. After then, there has been a long-term decreasing trend, with a decrease of 78% between 1991 and 2021-22.

Chart 9: Crimes of dishonesty recorded by the police, 1971 to 1994, 1995-96 to 2021-22



The national rate of recorded Crimes of dishonesty was 170 per 10,000 population in 2021-22, an increase from 164 per 10,000 population in 2020-21.

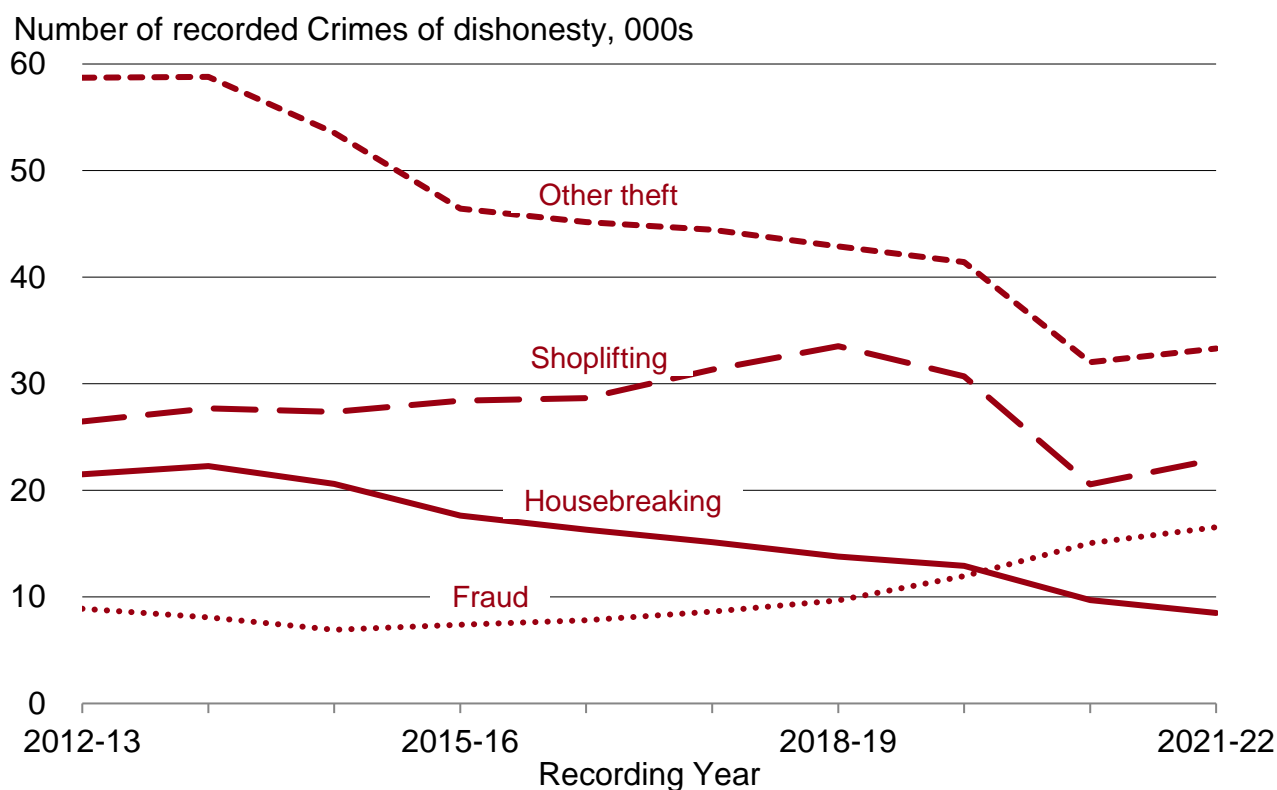
In 2021-22, of all Crimes of dishonesty:

- Other theft accounted for 36%. This has consistently been the biggest category
- Shoplifting accounted for 25%
- Fraud accounted for 18%
- Housebreaking accounted for 9%
- Theft of and from a motor vehicle together accounted for 7%
- Other dishonesty accounted for 4%
- Theft by opening lockfast places accounted for 1%

All these categories except Fraud have seen large decreases in the number of crimes recorded over the past ten years. Fraud has seen an increase, up 86% since 2012-13.

[Chart 10](#) shows the four largest categories within Crimes of dishonesty over the last ten years, and gives an indication of the trend and scale of each category.

Chart 10: Crimes of dishonesty recorded by the police, showing four largest categories, 2012-13 to 2021-22



The following sections discuss in more detail trends for each crime category comprised in the Crimes of dishonesty crime group. These are:

Crimes of dishonesty

- Housebreaking
- Theft by opening lockfast places
- Theft from a Motor Vehicle
- Theft of motor vehicle
- Shoplifting
- Other theft
- Fraud
- Other dishonesty

Housebreaking

Housebreaking accounted for 9% of Crimes of dishonesty. Over the ten year period from 2012-13 to 2021-22 this crime group has decreased by 61%, including a 13% decrease from 9,706 in 2020-21 to 8,489 in 2021-22.

Theft by opening lockfast places

Theft by opening a lockfast place accounted for 1% of Crimes of dishonesty. Over the ten year period from 2012-13 to 2021-22, this crime has seen a decrease of 63%. The number

of crimes recorded in this category has remained broadly stable in the most recent year, with 1,207 in 2020-21 and 1,203 in 2021-22.

Theft from a Motor Vehicle

Theft from a motor vehicle accounted for 2% of Crimes of dishonesty. Over the ten year period from 2012-13 to 2021-22 this crime has seen a large decrease of 69%, including an 8% decrease from 2,108 crimes in 2020-21 to 1,936 in 2021-22.

Theft of motor vehicle

Theft of a motor vehicle accounted for 5% of Crimes of dishonesty. Over the ten year period from 2012-13 to 2021-22 this crime has seen a decrease of 21%. There was a 5% increase in the most recent year, from 4,311 crimes in 2020-21 to 4,512 in 2021-22.

Shoplifting

Shoplifting accounted for a quarter (25%) of Crimes of dishonesty. There was an increasing trend since 2014-15, which was interrupted by a decrease in 2019-20 and a further larger decrease in 2020-21. This was likely to be due to the Covid-19 pandemic related restrictions. There was an 11% increase in the most recent year, from 20,557 crimes in 2020-21 to 22,913 in 2021-22. This remains 32% lower than the high in 2018-19. Over the ten year period from 2012-13 to 2021-22 this crime has seen a decrease of 13%.

Other theft

Other theft consists of Theft of pedal cycles, Theft from a motor vehicle not elsewhere classified and Theft not elsewhere classified (excl. motor vehicles).

This category is the largest in Crimes of dishonesty, accounting for 36% of these crimes. Over the ten year period from 2012-13 to 2021-22, Other theft has seen a decrease of 43%. There was a 4% increase in the most recent year, from 32,017 crimes in 2020-21 to 33,305 in 2021-22.

Fraud

Crimes of Fraud accounted for 18% of Crimes of dishonesty. Fraud has seen an upward trend since 2014-15, increasing by 86% since 2012-13. There was a 10% increase in the most recent year, from 15,031 crimes in 2020-21 to 16,536 in 2021-22.

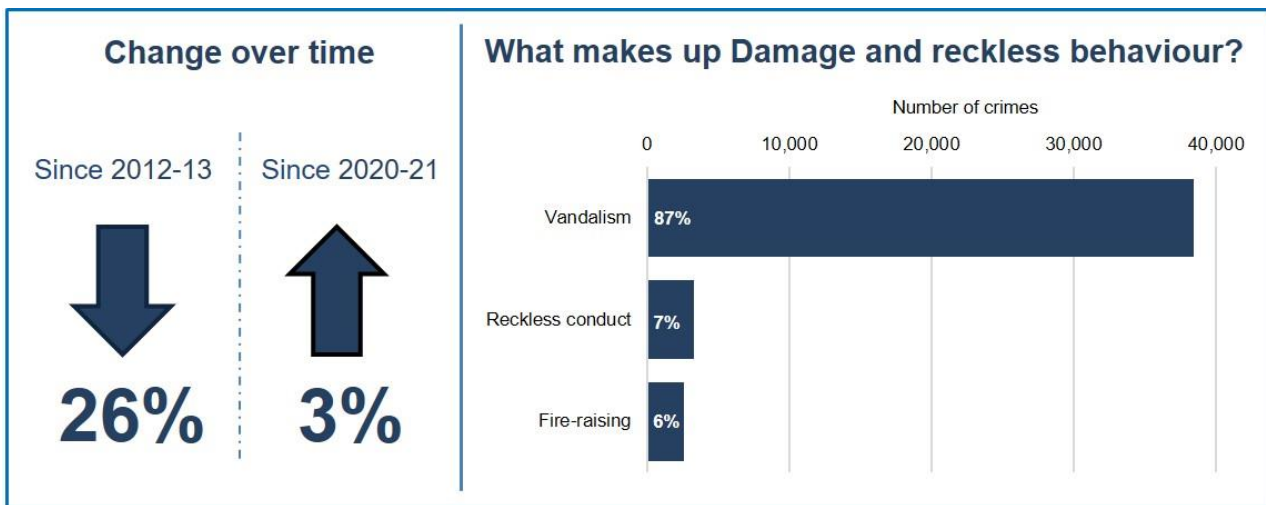
Much of the recent increase in Fraud has related to cyber-crimes which we estimate to now account for almost half of all Frauds (48%) and saw a dramatic rise during 2020-21. However, the increase in 2021-22 was due to a rise in non-cyber Fraud, which returned to pre-pandemic levels, whilst the estimated levels of cyber-related Fraud remained similar to 2020-21. Further information on this change is available in the [Cyber-crime chapter](#).

Other dishonesty

Other dishonesty includes crimes of Reset, Corruption, Embezzlement and other crimes of forgery which are not classified elsewhere.

Other dishonesty accounted for 4% of Crimes of dishonesty. Over the ten year period from 2012-13 to 2021-22 this crime has seen a decrease of 24%, including a 17% decrease in the most recent year, from 4,794 crimes in 2020-21 to 3,979 in 2021-22.

Damage and reckless behaviour



The introduction of the new crime grouping structure sees a change of name for the previous 'Fire-raising, Vandalism etc.' group to Damage and reckless behaviour. Beyond this, the only other change was the splitting of the Vandalism etc. category into two new categories: Vandalism and Reckless conduct.

Damage and reckless behaviour accounted for 15% of all crime recorded in Scotland in 2021-22. Between 2020-21 and 2021-22, the number of crimes of Damage and reckless behaviour recorded by the police increased by 3%, from 42,964 to 44,284. The recording of these crimes is at the second lowest level seen since 1976.

[Chart 11](#) shows the number of crimes of Damage and reckless behaviour from 1971 onwards. These crimes increased for a long period, but a sharp downward trend started after they peaked in 2006-07 (129,734 crimes). This includes a 26% fall over the last ten years since 2012-13.

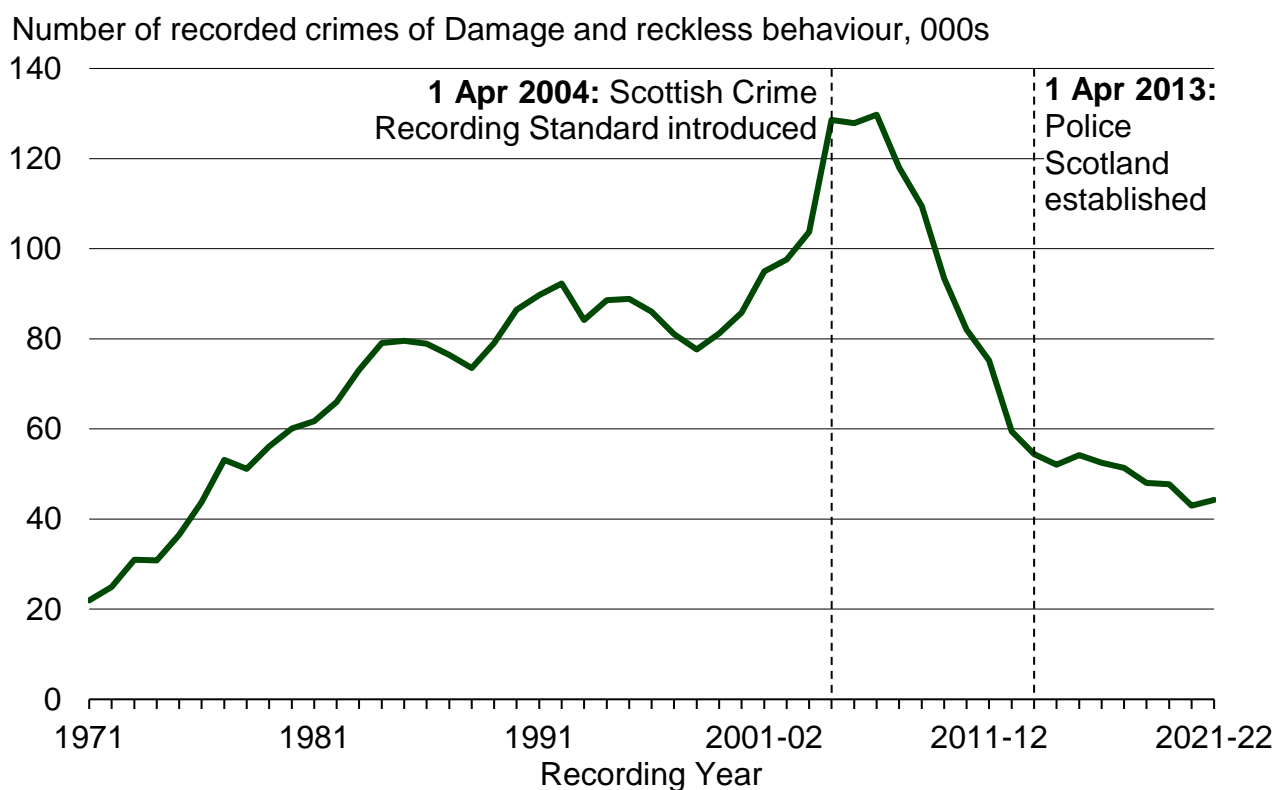
The national rate of recorded crimes of Damage and reckless behaviour was 81 per 10,000 population in 2021-22, a slight increase from 79 per 10,000 population in 2020-21.

In 2021-22, of all crimes of Damage and reckless conduct:

- Vandalism accounted for the clear majority, at 87%
- Reckless conduct accounted for 7%
- Fire-raising accounted for 6%

[Charts 12](#) shows the categories which make up Damage and reckless behaviour, over the past ten years. The chart clearly shows the difference in scale of recorded crimes of Vandalism compared to Reckless conduct and Fire-raising.

Chart 11: Damage and reckless behaviour crimes recorded by the police, 1971 to 1994, 1995-96 to 2021-22



The following sections discuss in more detail trends for each crime category comprised in the Damage and reckless behaviour crime group. These are:

Damage and reckless behaviour

- Vandalism
- Reckless conduct
- Fire-raising

Vandalism

Vandalism accounted for 87% of Damage and reckless behaviour. Over the ten year period from 2012-13 to 2021-22 this crime has seen a decrease of 28%. There was a 3% increase in the most recent year, from 37,288 in 2020-21 to 38,404 in 2021-22.

The Vandalism category includes crimes recorded under the [Computer Misuse Act 1990 \(causing damage\)](#). There were 40 such crimes recorded in 2021-22, down from 72 in 2020-21.

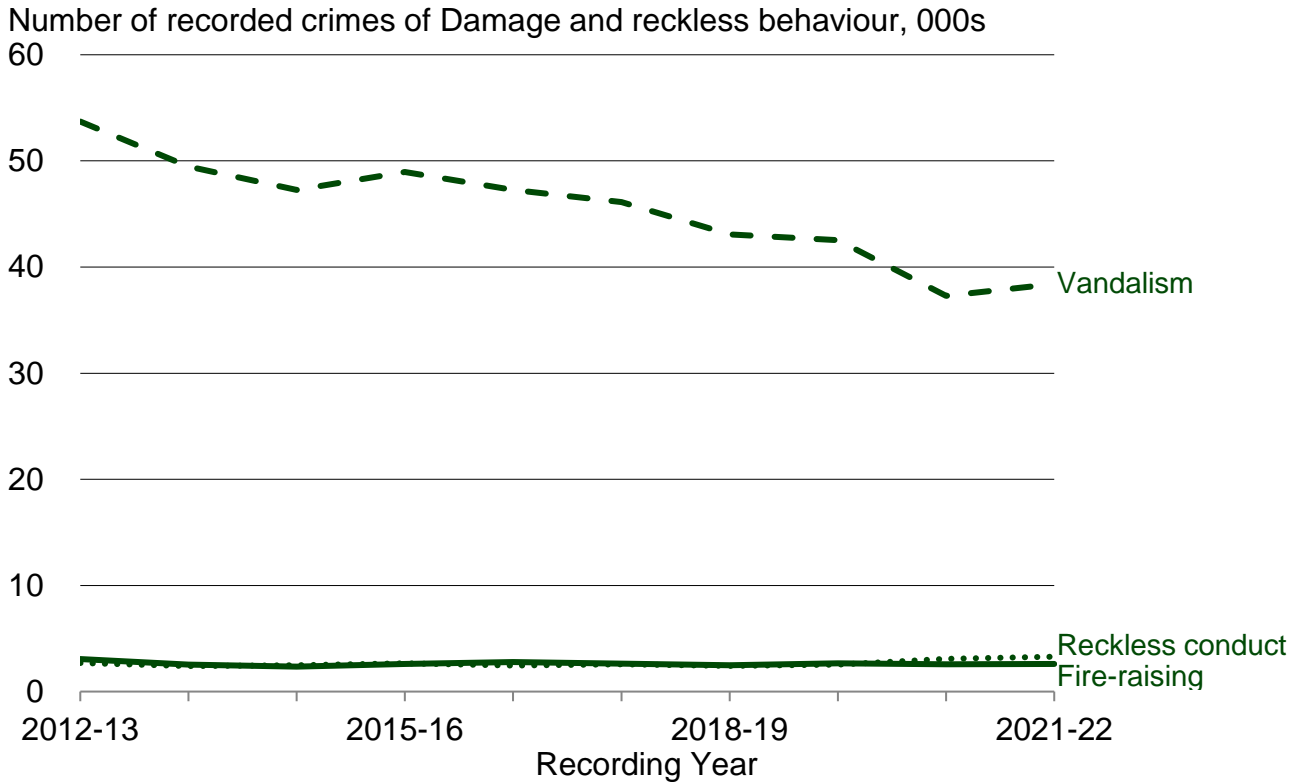
Reckless conduct

Reckless conduct accounted for 7% of Damage and reckless behaviour. Over the ten year period from 2012-13 to 2021-22 this category has seen an increase of 21% in the number of crimes recorded. This includes a 6% increase in the most recent year, from 3,096 in 2020-21 to 3,285 in 2021-22.

Fire-raising

Fire-raising accounted for 6% of Damage and reckless behaviour. Over the ten year period from 2012-13 to 2021-22 this category has seen a decrease of 15%. There was a slight 1% increase in the most recent year, from 2,580 crimes in 2020-21 to 2,595 in 2021-22.

Chart 12: Damage and reckless behaviour recorded by the police, by category, 2012-13 to 2021-22



Data comparisons: Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) Fire and Rescue Incident Statistics

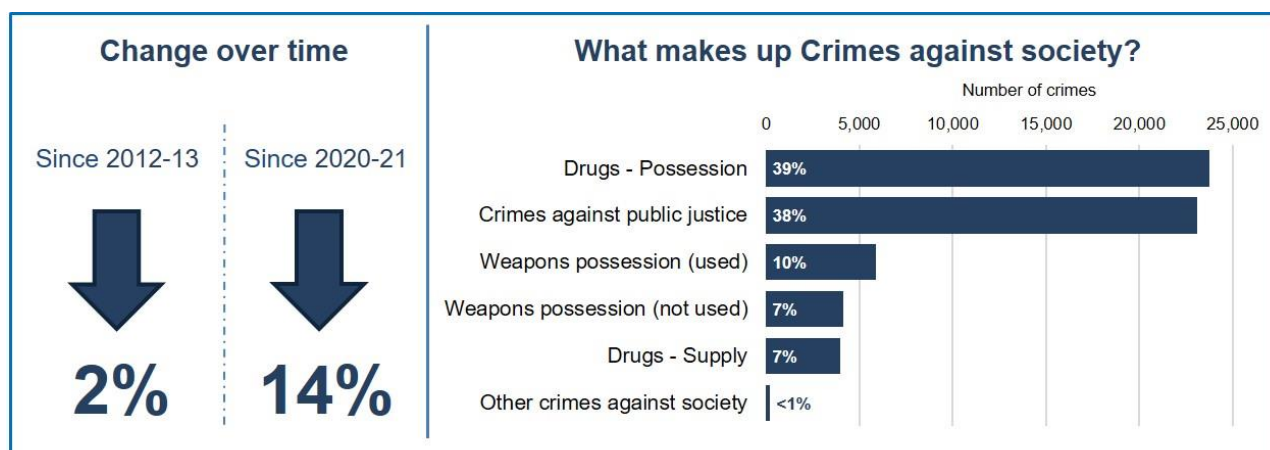
The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) publish annual [Fire and Rescue Incident Official Statistics](#), covering the number of fires attended. The latest figures available are for 2020-21.

It is not possible to make direct comparisons between the two sources, as many fires are caused accidentally rather than as a result of a crime, and the police are not called to all deliberate fires. Furthermore, not all police recorded crimes of fire-raising may result in the attendance of the SFRS. However, as these sources both relate to how Scotland's emergency services respond to fires, it would be anticipated that both should show similar trends over time.

A total of 25,147 fires were attended by the SFRS in 2020-21, up 3% on the previous year. Over half (58%) were started deliberately. Between 2011-12 and 2020-21, there has been a 22% decrease in the total number of fires attended and a 28% decrease in the number of deliberate fires.

This data is one year older than that for recorded crime presented in this bulletin, therefore direct comparisons are not possible. However, it does suggest that the overall reduction in police recorded crimes of fire-raising over the past ten years has also been broadly reflected in statistics from the SFRS.

Crimes against society

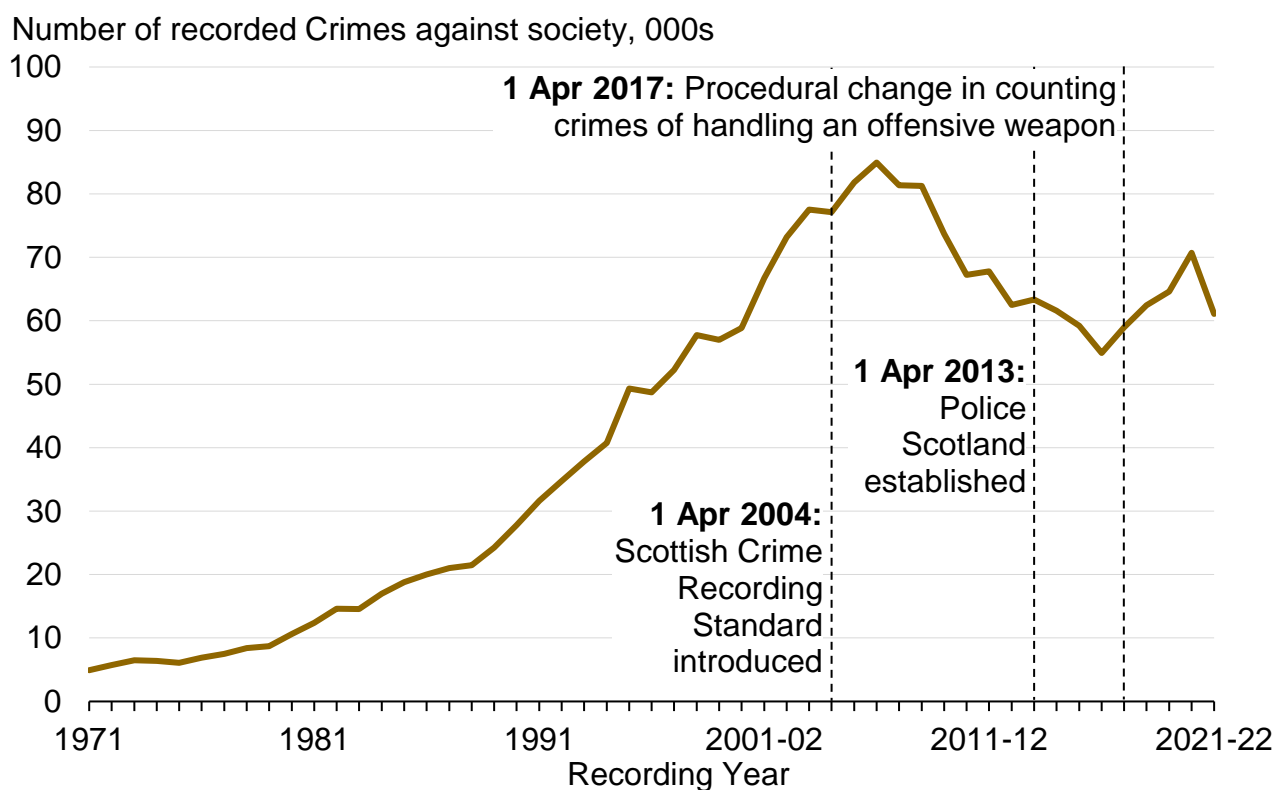


The introduction of the new crime grouping structure sees a change of name for the previous ‘Other crimes’ group to Crimes against society. Beyond this, the only other change was the splitting of the Drugs category into two new categories: Drugs – Possession and Drugs – Supply.

Crimes against society accounted for 21% of all crimes recorded in Scotland in 2021-22. Between 2020-21 and 2021-22, the number of Crimes against society recorded by the police decreased by 14%, from 70,737 to 61,059. This fall is mostly driven by decreases in the recording of Drugs – Possession and Drugs – Supply crimes.

[Chart 13](#) below shows the number of Crimes against society from 1971 onwards. After increasing for a long period up to 2006-07, these crimes decreased until 2016-17, before rising and then falling again over 2020-21 and 2021-22. It should be noted that a key part of the overall increase since 2016-17 is due to a procedural change in the recording of crimes of handling an offensive weapon (see later in this section for further information).

Chart 13: Crimes against society recorded by the police, 1971 to 1994, 1995-96 to 2021-22

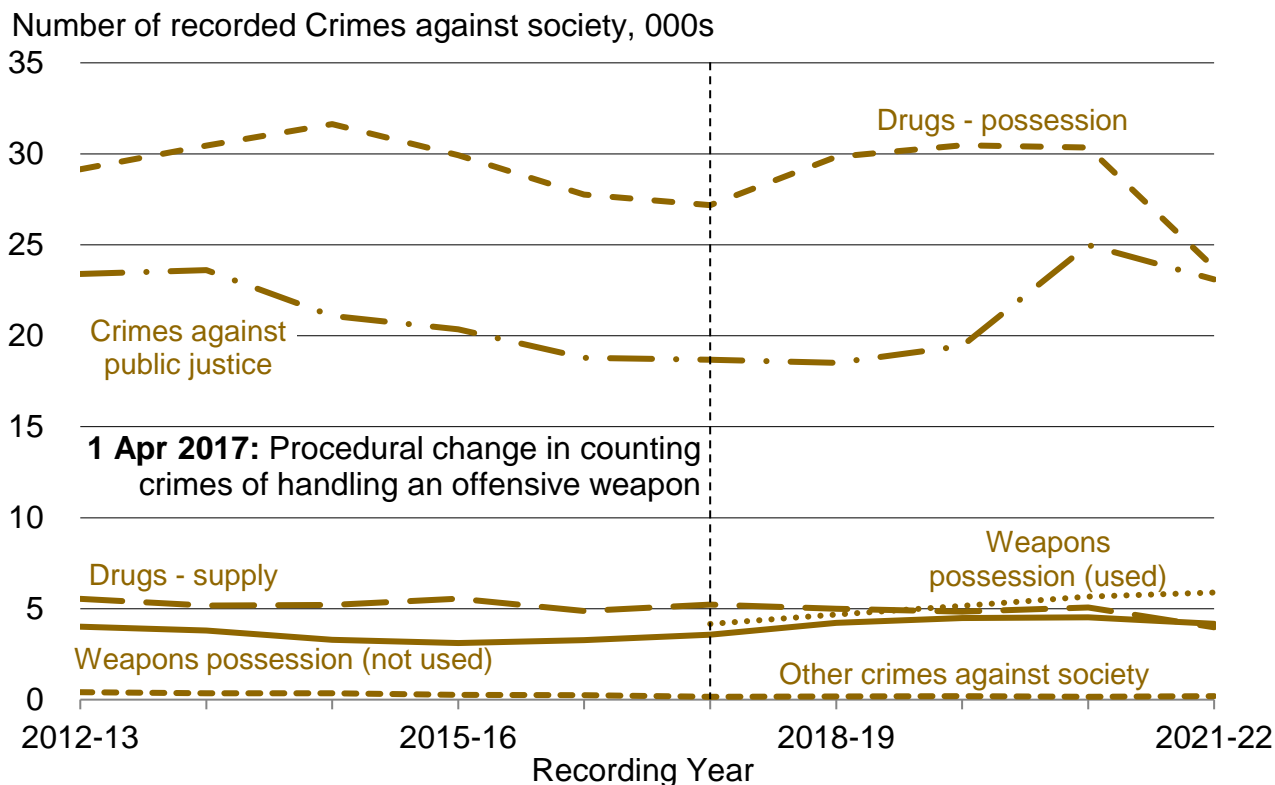


The national rate of recorded Crimes against society was 112 crimes per 10,000 population in 2021-22. This decreased from 129 per 10,000 population in 2020-21.

[Chart 14](#) shows the categories within Crimes against society over the last ten years, and gives an indication of the trend and scale of each category. In 2021-22, of all Crimes against society:

- Drugs – Possession and Crimes against public justice were the largest categories, accounting for 39% and 38%, respectively
- Weapons possession (used) accounted for 10%
- Weapons possession (not used) and Drugs – Supply accounted for 7% each
- Other crimes against society accounted for less than 1%

Chart 14: Crimes against society recorded by the police, by category, 2012-13 to 2021-22



Note: There was a procedural change to the counting of crimes of handling an offensive weapon in 2017-18. As such, the significant rise in the total number of recorded crimes of handling an offensive weapon shown for that year, does not represent a real increase in these crimes.

The following sections discuss in more detail trends for each crime category comprised in the Crimes against society crime group. These are:

Crimes against society

- Crimes against public justice
- Weapons possession (not used)
- Weapons possession (used)
- Drugs – Supply
- Drugs – Possession
- Other crimes against society

Further details on some categories can be found in the ['Supporting documents'](#) Excel workbook.

Crimes against public justice

Crimes against public justice accounted for 38% of Crimes against society. These cover a range of crimes, including Bail offences, Resisting arrest and General attempts to pervert the course of justice.

Over the ten year period from 2012-13 to 2021-22 the number of crimes recorded in this category decreased by 1%. There was a 7% decrease in the most recent year, from

24,985 recorded in 2020-21 to 23,099 in 2021-22. This followed a large increase between 2019-20 and 2020-21, which was likely due to the circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Handling offensive weapons

In 2017-18 the [Scottish Crime Recording Board](#) made a procedural change to how some crimes of handling an offensive weapon were recorded. This has had an impact on the comparability of the recorded crime statistics before and after this point.

Prior to 2017-18, statistics on handling offensive weapons in public places only include incidents where the perpetrator did not commit further crimes with the weapon. If they had, the specific crime of handling an offensive weapon was considered an aggravation of the crime it was used to commit (for example an aggravated assault) and would not have been included in the statistics.

From 1 April 2017, crimes of handling offensive weapons in public places are no longer treated as an aggravation where they are used to commit other crimes or offences against a person. As such, both the crime of handling an offensive weapon in a public place and any crime or offence committed with it are now both included in the statistics. This change was made to improve consistency between the recording of these crimes and the criminal law.

As a result of this change, crimes of handling an offensive weapon have been substantially higher since 2017-18. This does not represent a real increase in recorded crime. This change will continue to have an impact on the comparability of recorded crime statistics for all years prior to 2017-18.

From 2017-18, crimes of handling an offensive weapon in Scotland can then be counted in two different ways:

- the first is to use the pre-existing statistics, where the offensive weapon has not been used to commit another crime or offence against a person in a public place
- the second is to look at crimes where the offensive weapon was used to commit another crime or offence against a person in a public place

In June 2018 a report was published that presented more detailed information on the handling of offensive weapons within public places in Scotland. This included findings on the characteristics of these cases, based on a random sample of 1,500 crimes recorded by the police for the first six months (April to September) of 2013 and 2017. More information can be found by accessing the 'Recorded Crime in Scotland: Handling Offensive Weapons' [publication](#).

Weapons possession – Not used in other crimes or offences

The crime of Weapon possession (not used) accounted for 7% of Crimes against society in 2021-22.

Over the ten year period from 2012-13 to 2021-22 the number of crimes recorded in this category increased by 4% (from 4,015 to 4,160). However, there was an 8% decrease in the most recent year, from 4,524 in 2020-21 to 4,160 in 2021-22.

In 2021-22, 176 crimes of handling an offensive weapon (not used) occurred within a prison, compared to 123 in 2020-21.

In 2021-22, 126 crimes of handling an offensive weapon (not used) occurred within a school. This compares to 74 in 2020-21. It should be noted that schools were closed for a considerable part of the 2020-21 school year, which may have had an impact on the figure for 2020-21. This should be taken into consideration when interpreting these statistics.

Weapons possession – Used in other crimes or offences

The crime of Weapon possession (used) accounted for 10% of Crimes against society in 2021-22.

There was a 4% increase in the most recent year, from 5,660 crimes recorded in 2020-21 to 5,888 in 2021-22.

In 2021-22, 80 crimes of handling an offensive weapon (used) occurred within a prison, compared to 81 in 2020-21.

In 2021-22, 102 crimes of handling an offensive weapon (used) occurred within a school, compared to 36 in 2020-21. It should be noted that schools were closed for a considerable part of the 2020-21 school year, which may have had an impact on the figure for 2020-21. This should be taken into consideration when interpreting these statistics.

Drugs – Supply

Crimes related to the Supply of Drugs accounted for 7% of Crimes against society. Over the ten year period from 2012-13 to 2021-22 the number of crimes recorded in this category decreased by 28%. This includes a 22% decrease in the most recent year, from 5,066 in 2020-21 to 3,976 in 2021-22.

Drugs – Possession

Crimes of Possession of Drugs accounted for 39% of Crimes against society, the largest category in 2021-22. Over the ten year period from 2012-13 to 2021-22 the number of crimes recorded in this category has decreased by 19%. There was a 22% decrease in the most recent year, from 30,344 crimes in 2020-21 to 23,747 in 2021-22.

Other crimes against society

Other crimes against society accounted for less than 1% of all Crimes against society. This category includes Treason, Conspiracy, Explosive offences, Wrecking, piracy and hijacking, and Crimes against public order.

Over the ten year period from 2012-13 to 2021-22 the number of crimes recorded in this category decreased by 54%. There was a 20% increase in the most recent year, from 158 crimes recorded in 2020-21 to 189 in 2021-22.

Coronavirus restrictions crimes

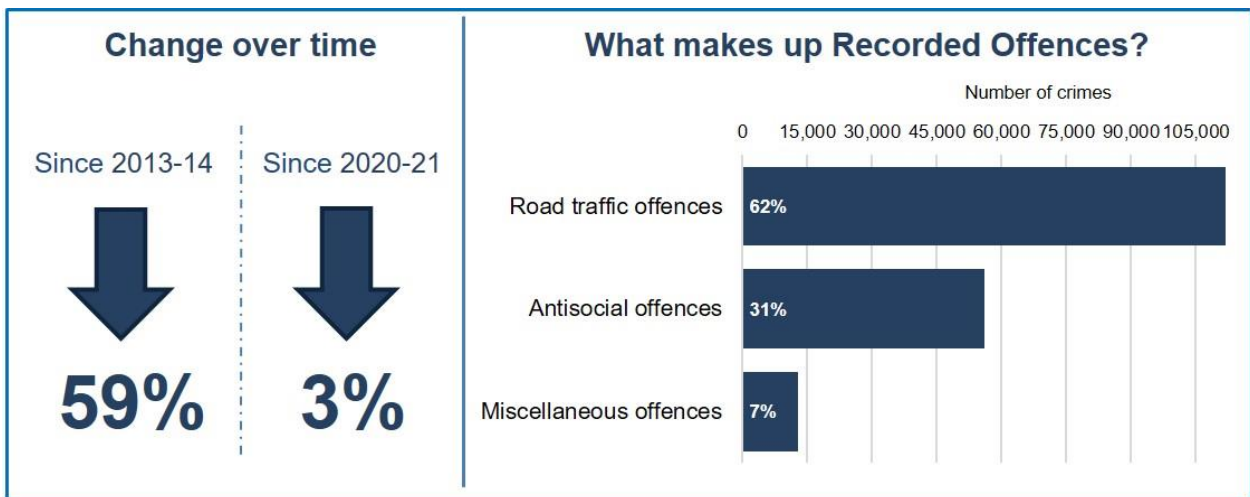
The enactment of the [Coronavirus Act 2020](#) and [Health Protection \(Coronavirus\) \(Restrictions\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2020](#) (implemented on 25 March and 27 March 2020 respectively) led to new and additional crimes being recorded within these statistics since 2019-20. For example, this includes cases where someone had left the place they were living during lockdown, did not have a reasonable excuse for this when asked by a police officer, and failed to comply with police advice or instruction to return there. Further [legislation in respect of local travel restrictions](#) came in to force on 2 November 2020.

Given the rapid pace of these changes, Police Scotland have used a bespoke data collection to capture information on the number of new crimes recorded under Coronavirus related legislation.

Whilst many incidents will have been dealt with by police without the need for enforcement, 3,913 Coronavirus restrictions crimes were recorded in 2021-22, accounting for 1% of all crime recorded in Scotland this year. This compares to 20,976 equivalent crimes recorded in 2020-21.

The national rate of recorded Coronavirus restriction crimes was 7 per 10,000 population in 2021-22, lower than the rate in 2020-21, at 38 per 10,000. The highest rates were in Glasgow City (24 per 10,000 population) and in West Dunbartonshire (21 per 10,000 population). It should be noted that crimes are recorded in terms of where they occur and not the home residency of the perpetrator (where the two places are different locations).

Total Recorded Offences



Note: Due to comparability issues, it is not possible to compare data with years prior to 2013-14.

The groups which make up total recorded offences have been greatly impacted by the new crime grouping structure, used for the first time in this year's bulletin. Both Common assault and Stalking have been transferred to the Non-sexual crimes of violence group, and as such no longer contribute to the total for recorded offences. The remaining offence types within the Miscellaneous offences group have been split into two groups: Antisocial offences and Miscellaneous offences. The Motor vehicle offences group is renamed to Road traffic offences, but otherwise sees very limited change. As noted at the start of this bulletin, these changes have been back-revised within the statistics to maintain time series analysis.

The total number of offences recorded has fallen by over half (59%) since 2013-14, including a 3% decrease from 187,233 in 2020-21 to 180,913 in 2021-22.

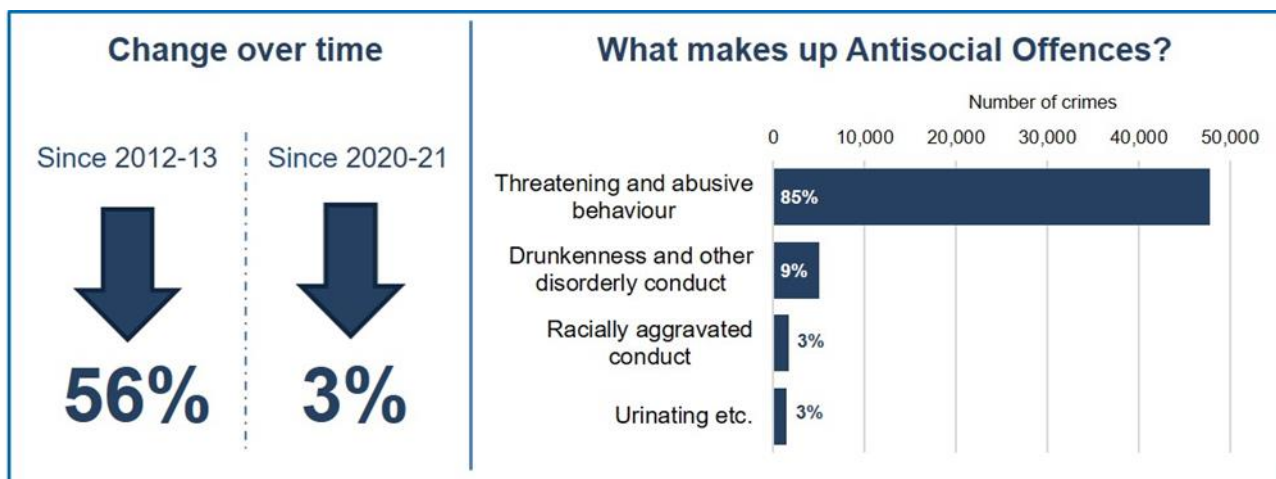
Due to anomalies in the data for Road traffic offences, statistics for total recorded offences by the police are only comparable from 2013-14 onwards. The Scottish Government produced a [Technical Report](#) in 2014 which detailed the quality assurance work carried out in reaching this conclusion. Further detail on these anomalies can be found later in this section and in [Annex 2](#).

In 2021-22, of all recorded offences:

- Road traffic offences accounted for just over three fifths (62%)
- Antisocial offences accounted for just under a third (31%)
- Miscellaneous offences accounted for 7%

It should be noted that the number of offences recorded by the police generally tends to be affected to a greater extent by police activity and operational decisions than the number of crimes.

Antisocial Offences



As noted above, Antisocial offences is a new group which was derived from splitting the previous Miscellaneous offences group into two groups: Antisocial offences and a revised Miscellaneous offences group with multiple new categories. To ensure no break to time series analysis, all data has been back-revised.

Antisocial offences accounted for just under a third (31%) of all offences recorded in Scotland in 2021-22. Between 2020-21 and 2021-22, the number of Antisocial offences recorded by the police decreased by 3%, from 57,456 to 55,975. There was a decrease of 56% since 2012-13.

The national rate of recorded Antisocial offences decreased from 105 per 10,000 population in 2020-21 to 102 per 10,000 population in 2021-22.

The Antisocial offences group includes the following categories:

Antisocial Offences

- Threatening and abusive behaviour
- Racially aggravated conduct
- Drunkenness & other disorderly conduct
- Urinating etc.

In 2021-22 of all Antisocial offences:

- Threatening and abusive behaviour accounted for the clear majority, at 85%
- Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct accounted for 9%
- Racially aggravated conduct accounted for 3%
- Urinating etc. accounted for 3%

Threatening and abusive behaviour accounts for the clear majority of antisocial offences and is discussed in more detail below.

For further information on the other Antisocial offences categories please refer to the ['Supporting documents'](#) Excel workbook for this bulletin. This includes data on the number of offences recorded in each category (Table 2) and rates per 10,000 population (Table 4). The workbook includes an 'Introduction' sheet, with information on how to navigate the tables, alongside a 'Notes' sheet, with relevant details to assist users when reading and interpreting results.

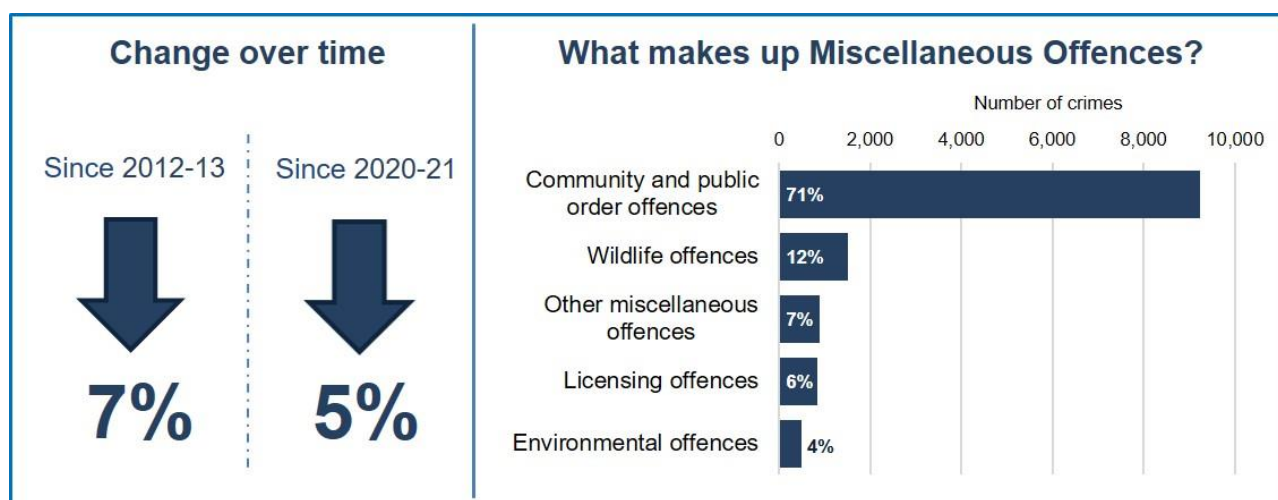
Threatening and abusive behaviour

The Threatening and abusive behaviour category includes offences of Threatening or abusive behaviour (which account for the vast majority of the category, at 90%), Breach of the peace offences (7%) and a new offence of Threatening and abusive behaviour of a retail worker (2%).

Over the ten year period from 2012-13 to 2021-22, the number of offences recorded in the Threatening and abusive behaviour category has decreased by 31%. This includes a 2% decrease in the most recent year, from 48,807 in 2020-21 to 47,756 in 2021-22.

Threatening and abusive behaviour of a retail worker is a subset of the Threatening and abusive behaviour category, which came into effect on the 24 August 2021. This was introduced by the [Protection of Workers \(Retail and Age-restricted Goods and Services\) \(Scotland\) Act 2021](#). As such, the first statistics for 2021-22 only relate to a partial year. There were 1,130 offences recorded during this time. More information on this new legislation is provided in [Annex 3](#).

Miscellaneous Offences



As noted above, the Miscellaneous offences group in this year's bulletin has been widely impacted by the introduction of the new crime grouping structure. Both Common assault and Stalking have been transferred to the Non-sexual crimes of violence group, and as such no longer contribute to the total for Miscellaneous offences. The remaining offence types within the Miscellaneous offences group have been split into two groups: Antisocial offences (discussed in the previous chapter) and Miscellaneous offences. These changes have been back-revised within the statistics to maintain time series analysis.

Another smaller change to the Miscellaneous offences group is the transfer of offences relating to the (mis)use of bicycles from this group to the Road traffic offences group, discussed in the next chapter.

Miscellaneous offences accounted for 7% of all offences recorded in Scotland in 2021-22. Between 2020-21 and 2021-22, the number of Miscellaneous offences recorded by the police decreased by 5% from 13,580 to 12,951. There was a decrease of 7% since 2012-13.

Due to these changes, the new Miscellaneous offences group now accounts for a much smaller proportion of total recorded offences.

The national rate of recorded Miscellaneous offences decreased slightly from 25 per 10,000 population in 2020-21 to 24 per 10,000 population in 2021-22.

The Miscellaneous offences group includes the following categories:

Miscellaneous Offences

- Community and public order offences
- Environmental offences
- Licensing offences
- Wildlife offences
- Other miscellaneous offences

In 2021-22, of all Miscellaneous offences:

- Community and public order offences were the largest category, accounting for 71%
- Wildlife offences accounted for 12%
- Other miscellaneous offences accounted for 7%
- Licensing offences accounted for 6%
- Environmental offences accounted for 4%

In 2021-22, Community and public order offences accounted for the majority of miscellaneous offences, these are discussed in more detail below.

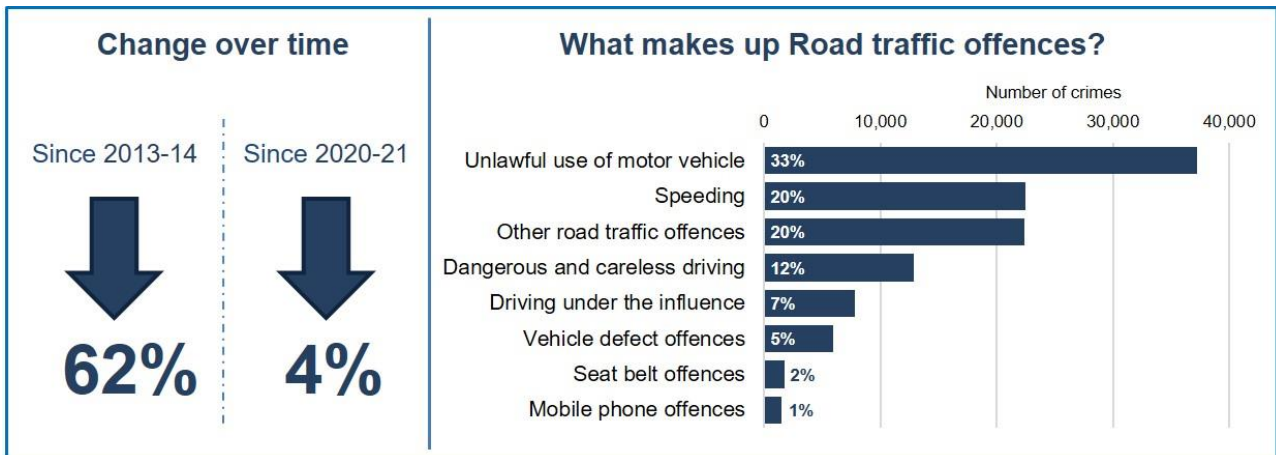
For further information on the other Miscellaneous offences categories please refer to the '[Supporting documents](#)' Excel workbook for this bulletin. This includes data on the number of offences recorded in each category (Table 2) and rates per 10,000 population (Table 4). The workbook includes an 'Introduction' sheet, with information on how to navigate the tables, alongside a 'Notes' sheet, with relevant details to assist users when reading and interpreting results.

Community and public order offences

The Community and public order offences category includes a wide range of offences. The main ones are General post office/telecommunications offences (which account for the clear majority of the category, at 86%), Computer Misuse Act 1990 – unauthorised access only (5%), and False or hoax calls to emergency services (5%).

Over the ten year period from 2012-13 to 2021-22, the number of offences recorded in the Community and public order offences category has increased by 10%. However, there was a 2% decrease in the most recent year, from 9,397 in 2020-21 to 9,224 in 2021-22.

Road traffic offences



Note: Due to comparability issues, it is not possible to compare data with years prior to 2013-14.

The introduction of the new crime grouping structure sees a change of name for the previous Motor vehicle offences group to Road traffic offences. Beyond this, the only other change was the transfer into this group of some offences relating to the (mis)use of bicycles, from the previous Miscellaneous offences group. This change has been back-revised within the statistics to maintain time series analysis. The impact is however minor, with these offences accounting for just 0.1% of all Road traffic offences in 2021-22.

Road traffic offences accounted for 62% of all offences recorded in Scotland in 2021-22. Between 2020-21 and 2021-22, the number of Road traffic offences recorded by the police decreased by 4% from 116,197 to 111,987. Over the longer term, there was a decrease of 62% since 2013-14.

Due to a number of anomalies in the data as a result of inconsistencies with legacy data reporting, Road traffic offences recorded by the police are only comparable from 2013-14 onwards. Further information on the comparability issues can be found in [Annex 2](#).

The national rate of recorded Road traffic offences decreased from 213 per 10,000 population in 2020-21 to 205 per 10,000 population in 2021-22.

The Road traffic offences group includes the following categories:

Road Traffic Offences

- Dangerous & careless driving
- Driving under the influence
- Speeding
- Unlawful use of motor vehicle
- Vehicle defect offences
- Seat belt offences
- Mobile phone offences
- Other road traffic offences

In 2021-22, of all Road traffic offences:

- Unlawful use of motor vehicle accounted for a third (33%)
- Speeding accounted for a fifth (20%)
- Other road traffic offences also accounted for a fifth (20%)
- Dangerous & careless driving accounted for 12%
- Driving under the influence accounted for 7%
- Vehicle defect offences accounted for 5%
- Seat belt offences accounted for 2%
- Mobile phone offences accounted for 1%

The following section discusses the three largest categories (Unlawful use of motor vehicle, Speeding and Other road traffic offences) in more detail.

For further information on the other Road traffic offences categories please refer to the '[Supporting documents](#)' Excel workbook for this bulletin. This includes data on the number of offences recorded in each category (Table 2) and rates per 10,000 population (Table 4). The workbook includes an 'Introduction' sheet, with information on how to navigate the tables, alongside a 'Notes' sheet, with relevant details to assist users when reading and interpreting results.

Unlawful use of motor vehicle

The Unlawful use of motor vehicle category includes offences such as Driving while disqualified, Driving without a licence, Driving without insurance and Driving without a test certificate. Further detail can be found in the [User Guide](#).

Unlawful use of motor vehicle is the largest category in this group, accounting for 33% of all Road traffic offences. This category decreased by 14% between 2020-21 and 2021-22, from 43,309 to 37,238.

Speeding

Speeding accounted for a fifth (20%) of all Road traffic offences. This category decreased by 2%, from 22,963 in 2020-21 to 22,472 in 2021-22. There was a decrease of 73% since 2013-14.

These figures do not include any offences recorded as a result of the Scottish Safety Camera Programme. These are excluded as no police resources are used in the recording of an offence by this programme and the National Statistics on Recorded Crime focuses solely on crimes and offences faced by the police and not by other organisations.

Other road traffic offences

Other road traffic offences accounted for a fifth (20%) of all Road traffic offences. This category includes a range of offences, such as Accident offences (accounting for 68% of the category), Driver's neglect of traffic directions (not pedestrian crossing) (13%) and Motor vehicle other offences (8%).

This category increased by 12%, from 19,957 in 2020-21 to 22,355 in 2021-22. There was an overall decrease of 47% since 2013-14.

Police recorded cyber-crime in Scotland

This chapter presents an estimate of how many cyber-crimes were recorded in Scotland during 2021-22.

The information provided below relates to cyber-crimes which have come to the attention of the police. It does not provide information on the characteristics of all cyber-crime committed in society, as not all of these crimes are reported to the police.

Background

Defining cyber-crime is complex, with no agreed upon definition of the term. The main debate centres around the extent to which cyber technology needs to be involved for the crime to be termed 'cyber-crime'. For the purposes of recorded crime (as defined in the Scottish Crime Recording Standard), a broad definition of cyber-crime is adopted that includes crimes in which cyber technology is in any way involved. This ranges from crimes where a digital system, infrastructure or Information and Communication Technology (ICT) device is the target as well as the principal or sole method of attack, known as 'cyber-dependent' crimes (such as the spreading of computer viruses), to 'traditional' crimes where the internet has been used as a means to commit the crime, known as 'cyber-enabled' crimes (such as online fraud or sexual crime). Throughout this chapter, both 'cyber-dependent' and 'cyber-enabled' crimes are referred to collectively as 'cyber-crimes'.

The estimates provided in this chapter are based on a review of crime records, whereby a random sample of cases was drawn across Scotland for those types of crime that could in theory involve a cyber-element. The review considered which proportion, by crime type, actually were cyber-crimes in 2021-22.

As this analysis is based on a sample of police records (rather than all police records), it should be seen as providing a broad estimate of the volume and type of cyber-crime recorded in Scotland, rather than an exact count. The exception to this are crimes under the Computer Misuse Act 1990 (within the Damage and reckless behaviour crime group), where all crimes were reviewed due to the relatively low volume recorded.

Estimated volume of cyber-crimes

In 2021-22, an estimated 14,280 cyber-crimes were recorded by the police in Scotland. This is similar to the estimated 14,860 cyber-crimes recorded in 2020-21, but remains a large increase compared to the estimated 7,710 cyber-crimes recorded in 2019-20.

Part of the increase seen over the past two years may be due to the significant impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and government instructions to limit social contact. For example, in their 'Crime in England and Wales: year ending December 2021'⁷ release, the Office for National Statistics noted that an increase in fraud offences could reflect perpetrators taking advantage of behavioural changes during the pandemic, such as increased online shopping.

⁷ [Crime in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk/crime-in-england-and-wales)

A procedural change to the recording of international crime made in April 2020 has also likely led to some additional cases, but relatively few when compared to the overall increase. This is discussed further in the [previous Recorded Crime in Scotland bulletin](#).

We estimate that at least 5% of crimes recorded by the police in Scotland in 2021-22 were cyber-crimes. This includes an estimated 28% of Sexual crimes, 9% of Crimes of dishonesty, 3% of Non-sexual crimes of violence and less than 1% of Damage and reckless behaviour.

It is important to note that whilst the sample of crime records reviewed for this analysis was designed to capture the main types of crime that could involve a cyber-element, this may not have included every relevant type of crime. As such, these figures should be taken as estimates. Going forward statisticians will continue to keep the types of crime reviewed for this chapter under consideration, to ensure any additional types (beyond those discussed below) that may involve a cyber-element are included. For example, we widened the pool of crimes reviewed this year, to include some additional types such as stalking and those related to the proceeds of crime. We also re-visited the two previous years on the same basis, with revised estimated figures for recorded cyber-crime in 2019-20 and 2020-21 published in this bulletin.

Table A10 in the '[Supporting documents](#)' Excel workbook provides estimates of the number of cyber-crimes split by crime type from 2019-20 to 2021-22.

Cyber-crimes within Non-sexual crimes of violence

This analysis looked specifically at crimes of (i) Threats and extortion (ii) those recorded under the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 and (iii) Stalking.

In 2021-22, an estimated 1,260 crimes of Threats and extortion were cyber-crimes, an increase of 73% from the estimated 730 recorded in 2020-21. In the latest year, 90% of recorded Threats and extortion were cyber-crimes. Most of these cases relate to 'sextortion', most commonly where the perpetrator threatens to reveal evidence of the victim's online sexual activity unless they receive some form of monetary payment.

As part of the analysis we looked at the confirmed and suspected location of the perpetrators of cyber-crimes. This analysis was based on the information recorded at the point which the cases were reviewed. Amongst the cases we sampled, for Threats and extortion the location of perpetrators was unknown for around 6 out of 10 cyber-crimes (59%), and confirmed or suspected to be outside Scotland in a further third of cases (33%).

Table A12 in the '[Supporting documents](#)' Excel workbook provides estimates of the location of perpetrators of cyber-crimes in 2021-22.

Crimes recorded under the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 and Stalking are course of conduct type offences. Within this research, any crime that occurred wholly online, or included a mix of in-person and online activity as part of the course of conduct, has been classified as a cyber-crime. In 2021-22, an estimated 200 crimes under the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 and 400 crimes of Stalking were cyber-crimes. This represented an estimated 11% of crimes recorded under the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 and around half (48%) of crimes of Stalking.

Cyber-crime within Sexual crimes

This analysis looked specifically at those types of sexual crimes that could have a cyber-element. For example, crimes of Communicating indecently, Cause to view sexual activity or images, Indecent photos of children, Disclosing or threatening to disclose intimate images and Voyeurism.

In 2021-22, an estimated 4,210 Sexual crimes (28%) recorded by the police were cyber-crimes, similar to the estimate of 4,630 in 2020-21. The estimated volume of Sexual crimes that were cyber-crimes has gradually increased over the longer term from 1,100 in 2013-14⁸. Part of the increase after 2017-18 will likely relate to new crimes of Disclosing or threatening to disclose intimate images being recorded under the Abusive Behaviour and Sexual Harm (Scotland) Act 2016, which was implemented on 3 July 2017. However, the clear majority of this increase will be due to other factors.

The analysis also suggests an estimated 1,950 Sexual crimes recorded in 2021-22 were both cyber-crimes and had a victim under the age of 16.

We found that, for around half (48%) of the records examined perpetrators of Sexual crimes which were cyber-crimes were either confirmed or suspected to be located in Scotland. Whilst the location of a perpetrators was unknown in a further third (37%) of records.

Cyber-crime within Crimes of dishonesty

This analysis predominately covers the crimes of Fraud, as well as Money laundering and proceeds of crime.

Fraud includes a wide range of criminal activity such as bank card fraud, failure to pay for goods and services (either online or in person such as taxi fares and meals at restaurants), fraudulent sales, bogus workmen, phishing, banking scams etc.

In 2021-22, almost half (48%) or an estimated 8,010 recorded frauds were estimated to have been cyber-crimes. This is similar to the estimated 8,630 cyber frauds recorded in 2020-21, but has more than doubled from the estimated 3,450 recorded in 2019-20.

Whilst the number of frauds that were cyber-crimes has remained relatively stable over the past year, the number of estimated frauds that were not cyber-crimes has increased to 8,530 from 6,450 in 2020-21 (returning these to a similar level seen in 2019-20).

Table A11 in the ['Supporting documents'](#) Excel workbook provides estimates of volumes and proportions of Cyber Fraud from 2018-19 to 2021-22.

We found that for half (48%) of the records we examined, the location of perpetrators of Fraud cyber-crimes was unknown. For a further third (35%) of records, perpetrators were either suspected or confirmed to be located outside of Scotland.

In 2021-22 an estimated 160 cases of Money laundering and proceeds of crime were cyber-crimes (representing around two-thirds, or 64%, of all recorded cases).

⁸ [Recorded crime in Scotland: 'Other sexual crimes', 2013-2014 and 2016-2017](#)

Cyber-crime within Damage and reckless behaviour

This analysis looked at crimes recorded under the Computer Misuse Act 1990 (causing damage). Because of the relatively low volumes of crimes recorded, each record was reviewed and accounted for 40 cyber-crimes.

Official Statistics on clear up rates

This section presents statistics on recorded crime clear up rates in Scotland during 2021-22. Whereas the rest of this bulletin presents recorded crime statistics that have been produced as National Statistics, these clear up rate statistics remain published as Official Statistics.

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.

Clear up rates are calculated as follows:

$$\frac{\text{number of crimes cleared up in year } y}{\text{total number of crimes recorded in year } y} \times \frac{100}{1}$$

Clear up rates presented are rounded to one decimal place.

Because crimes or offences may be cleared up in a different year than they were recorded rates in excess of 100% can arise.

Clear up rates for both the Coronavirus restrictions crimes group and Road traffic offences group are not included in this bulletin, as by their nature both typically involve criminality in which the offender is 'caught in the act'. Further to this, it has not been possible to obtain clear up rate information for the Coronavirus restrictions group, due to the separate and bespoke data collection used by Police Scotland. Further detail on clear up rates by groups and categories is available from the '[Supporting documents](#)' Excel workbook (Table 3).

More information on clear up rates is available in the [User Guide](#).

Total recorded crime

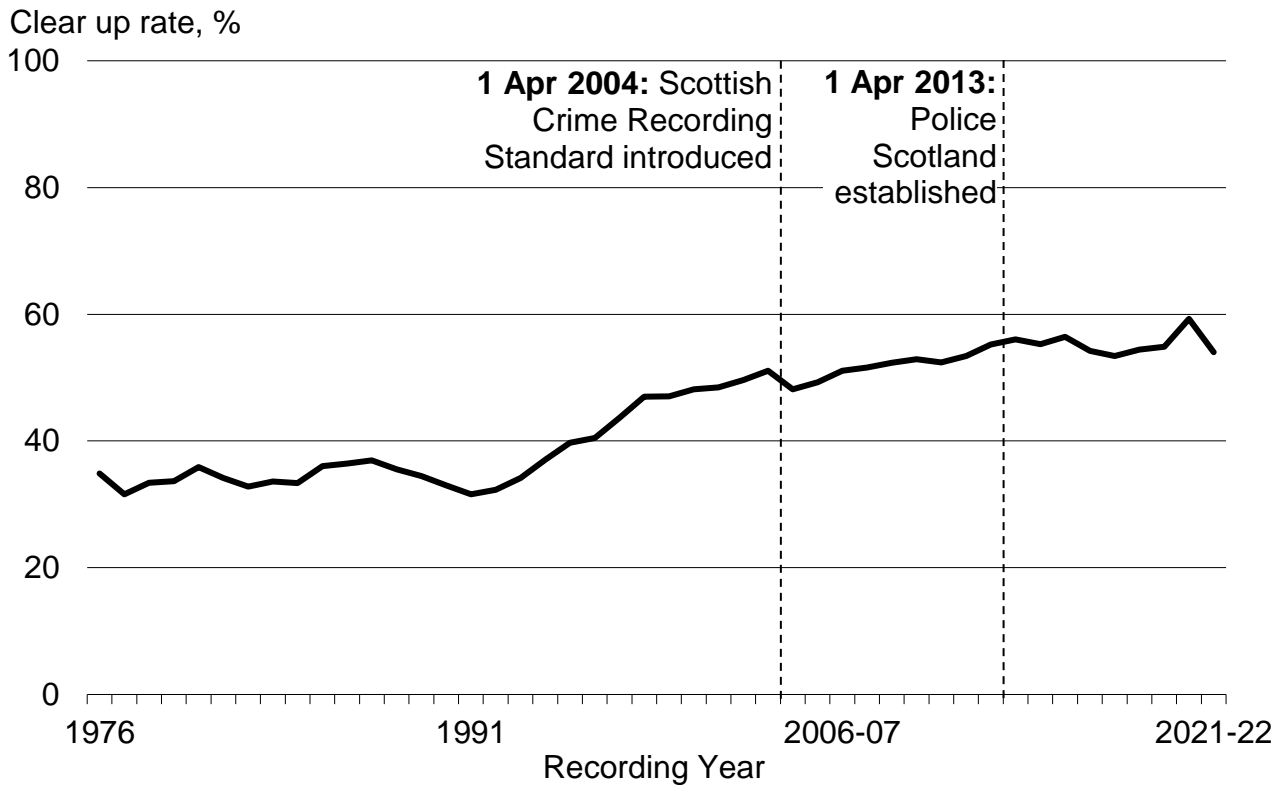
The new crime grouping structure, used for the first time in this year's bulletin, also affects the calculation of clear up rates. To ensure no break to time series analysis, all data on clear up rates has been back-revised, using the same approach as for statistics presented in previous chapters.

In 2021-22 the clear up rate was 54.0%, down from 59.3% in 2020-21, and similar to the 54.9% recorded in 2019-20. The increase in 2020-21 likely reflected the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the types of crime recorded, with the volume of those crimes that have relatively lower clear up rates falling more sharply than those with relatively higher clear up rates.

The fall back to 54.0% in 2021-22 reflects a partial return to the volume of different crime types recorded in the year prior to the pandemic (2019-20), albeit clear up rates have still fallen for each of the individual crime groups (see below for further detail).

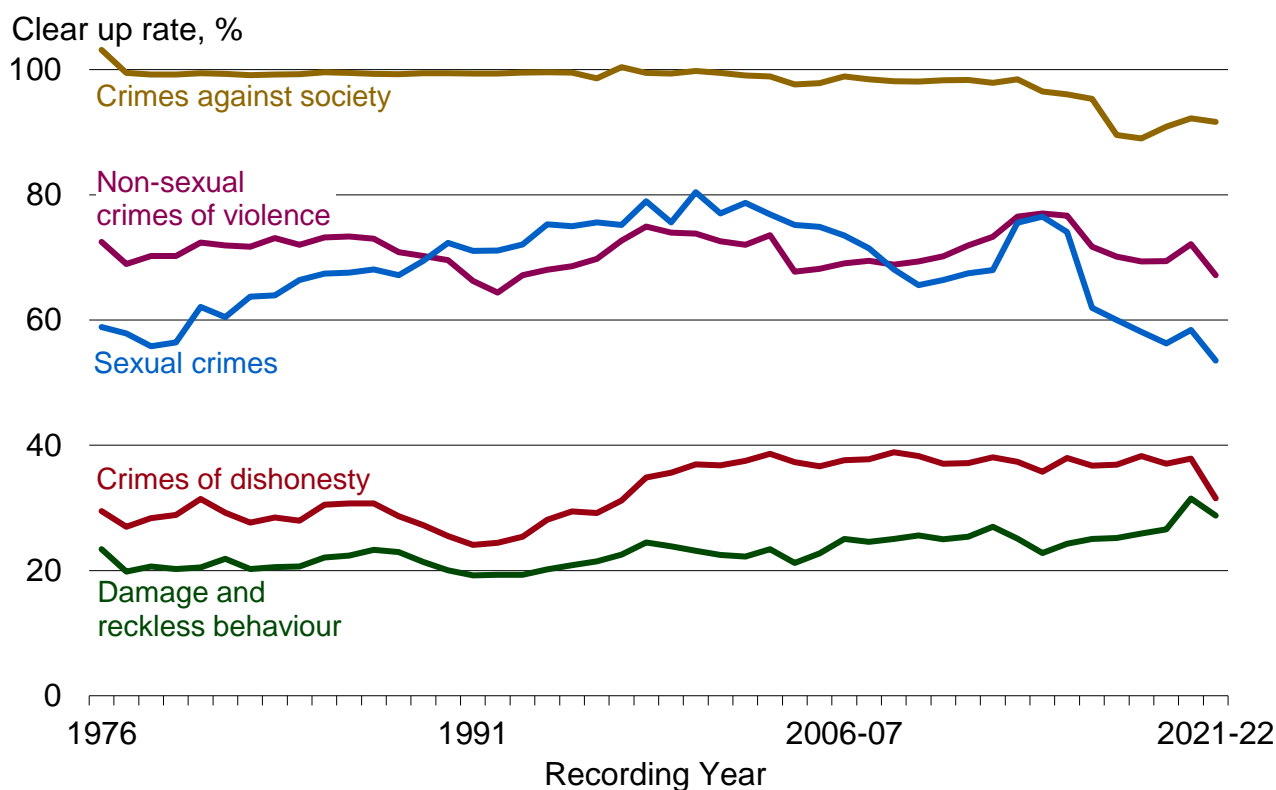
Prior to 2020-21, clear up rates had been relatively stable over the last decade following a generally upward trend since 1976, the first year for which comparable clear up rates are available, as shown by [Chart 15](#) below. [Chart 16](#) shows the clear up rates by crime group from 1976 onwards.

Chart 15: Clear up rate for total recorded crime, 1976¹ to 1994, 1995-96 to 2021-22



1. Comparable clear up rates for the present crime groups are not available prior to 1976.

Chart 16: Clear up rates for crimes recorded by the police by crime group, 1976 to 1994, 1995-96 to 2021-22



1. Comparable clear up rates for the present crime groups are not available prior to 1976.

Non-sexual crimes of violence

The clear up rate for Non-sexual crimes of violence decreased from 72.1% in 2020-21 to 67.1% in 2021-22.

Between 2020-21 and 2021-22, the category with the largest decrease was Other non-sexual violence, from 61.1% to 44.7%. A growing proportion of Other-Non sexual violence cases relate to cases of Threats and extortion, 90% of which we estimate to be cyber-crimes. This may have had an impact on the lowering clear up-rate. Murder and culpable homicide had the largest increase, from 98.4% to 113.5%.

Sexual crimes

The clear up rate for Sexual crimes decreased from 58.4% in 2020-21 to 53.5% in 2021-22. This is the lowest rate since 1976, the first year for which comparable clear up rates are available.

Between 2020-21 and 2021-22, most categories had a decrease in their clear up rates. Only Crimes associated with prostitution had an increase, from 60.7% to 66.3%. The clear up rate for Communicating indecently has remained stable, at 56.9%.

Crimes of dishonesty

The clear up rate for Crimes of dishonesty decreased from 37.9% in 2020-21 to 31.6% in 2021-22.

Between 2020-21 and 2021-22, clear up rates decreased for all categories. The category with the largest decrease was Theft of a motor vehicle, with the clear up rate falling from 51.5% to 41.2%.

Damage and reckless behaviour

The clear up rate for Damage and reckless behaviour decreased from 31.5% in 2020-21 to 28.8% in 2021-22. Damage and reckless behaviour consistently has the lowest clear up rate of the five crime groups. However, despite the decrease in the latest year, there have been increases since 2014-15. The rate for 2021-22 is the second highest over the past ten years.

Between 2020-21 and 2021-22, the largest decrease occurred in the clear up rate for the Reckless conduct category, from 63.1% to 48.8%.

Crimes against society

The clear up rate for Crimes against society decreased marginally from 92.2% in 2020-21 to 91.6% in 2021-22. Clear up rates for Crimes against society have always been the highest of all groups, as many of the contributing categories (though not all) relate to criminality for which someone is generally 'caught in the act' (for example Drugs – Possession). An example of where this is not the case would be the Weapons Possession (used) category, where earlier research⁹ suggested the clear majority of crimes were recorded following a victim or witness report to the police.

There were consistent decreases in clear up rates for Crime against society between 2013-14 and 2018-19, followed by small increases over 2019-20 and 2020-21, before the latest year's decrease.

Between 2020-21 and 2021-22, most categories have seen a decrease, with the largest one occurring for Other crimes against society, from 95.6% to 75.1%. Drugs – Supply saw an increase in clear up rates, from 82.9% to 89.4%, whilst there was little change for Drugs – Possession (moving from 94.5% to 94.6%).

⁹ [Supporting documents - Recorded crime in Scotland: handling offensive weapons](#)

Annex 1: Data source and context

Data source

National Statistics on police recorded crime are based on data which Police Scotland extract from their data repository, called the Source for Evidence Based Policing (SEBP) and submit to the Scottish Government. Prior to 2020-21, the data was collected from a different Police Scotland IT system, called the Scottish Operational and Management Information System (ScOMIS).

Scottish Government statisticians, with support from Police Scotland, conducted a comparative analysis between ScOMIS and SEBP. This analysis considered the impact of changing the source of recorded crime statistics from ScOMIS to SEBP and found that there is strong alignment between both administrative systems, with just minor discrepancies. The outcomes of this work are discussed in more detail in the [User Guide](#).

Prior to 2013-14 and the establishment of Police Scotland, the Scottish Government collected recorded crime data from the eight legacy forces, who in turn extracted the data from their own systems. Despite the change in method of collection, the data presented on total recorded crime remains comparable both before and after 1 April 2013. The Scottish Government produced a [Technical Report on the Comparability of Recorded Crime Data](#) in 2014 which detailed the quality assurance work which was carried out to reach this conclusion.

On 1 April 2004, the Scottish Crime Recording Standard (SCRS) was introduced to help maintain a victim orientated approach to crime recording. It was anticipated that this might increase the number of minor crimes recorded such as vandalism and minor thefts. It can be seen from [Chart 1](#) that this did cause a slight increase in 2004-05 as expected, but that the downwards trend returned following this change to recording practice.

The detailed classification of crimes and offences used by the Scottish Government to collect criminal statistics contains over 500 codes. Further information on how the crime codes are grouped can be found in the [User Guide](#). As discussed in the Introduction, a new crime and offence grouping structure has been used in the 2021-22 bulletin for the first time. More detailed information on this change is provided in [Annex 5](#).

The statistical return from which most of the figures in this bulletin are taken is a simple count of the numbers of crimes and offences, for each local authority, which the police have recorded and cleared up.

Amendments to crime and offence records will always arise after data has been submitted by Police Scotland to the Scottish Government.

As with our analysis in previous bulletins, the comparison presented below confirms that the extent of further amendment to police crime and offence records following the original submission of data continues to be minimal at the Scotland level. This gives users confidence that the published statistics for 2013-14 to 2020-21 recorded crimes and offences are reliable. On a proportional basis, the biggest impact is on the Crimes of dishonesty group, where a net 1,684 fewer crimes have been recorded following no-criming and reclassification between groups. This has reduced the number of Crimes of Dishonesty by 1.9% from 89,731 to 88,047.

Table A13: Revisions of crimes recorded by the police, Scotland, 2020-21

2020-21 Reporting Year	Number & Percentage			
Crime or Offence Group	Submitted in April 2021	Submitted in April 2022	Difference	% Difference
Total Crime and Offences	465,709	463,325	-2,384	-0.5%
Total Crime	278,476	276,097	-2,379	-0.9%
Non-sexual crimes of violence	61,913	61,976	63	0.1%
Sexual crimes	13,131	13,239	108	0.8%
Crimes of dishonesty	89,731	88,047	-1,684	-1.9%
Damage and reckless behaviour	42,964	42,863	-101	-0.2%
Crimes against society	70,737	69,972	-765	-1.1%
Total Offences	187,233	187,228	-5	0.0%
Antisocial offences	57,456	57,372	-84	-0.1%
Miscellaneous offences	13,580	13,368	-212	-1.6%
Road traffic offences	116,197	116,488	291	0.3%

Despite the fact that only a very small proportion of records are amended following their original submission to the Scottish Government, it is important for National Statistics purposes that time series comparisons between 2013-14 to 2020-21 are on a like-for-like basis. As such the 2013-14 to 2020-21 data used in this bulletin remains that which was submitted immediately following each of these years, to ensure this is consistent with the timetable being followed for the submission of data for 2021-22 (i.e. the same amount of time has elapsed for amendments to records for each reporting year based on ScOMIS/SEBP).

Information on the data source used in the Recorded Crime bulletin series and supporting metadata can be found in the [User Guide](#).

Information is also collected from the British Transport Police and the Ministry of Defence Police, but these figures have not been included in the main body of this bulletin. The following crimes and offences were recorded by these two organisations:

Table A14: Crimes and offences recorded and cleared up (as a percentage of those recorded) by the British Transport Police and Ministry of Defence Police, Scotland, 2021-22

	Number & Percentage			
	Crimes	Crime clear up rate	Offences	Offence clear up rate
Total recorded by British Transport Police	1,797	45.4%	3,240	28.2%
Total recorded by Ministry of Defence Police	45	15.6%	-	-

In addition to the National Statistics presented in this bulletin, Police Scotland publish management information on the number of crimes and offences recorded by the police. This is presented within their [Quarterly Management Information Reports](#), which are

available on Police Scotland's website. It should be noted there will be no change to the crime groupings used in Police Scotland's publications at this time.

For more information on these statistics please see the [User Guide](#).

Context for recording crimes and offences

This section provides information on the context for recording crimes and offences.

In one criminal incident, several crimes or offences may occur – e.g. a house may be broken into and vandalised, and the occupants assaulted. In this example, crimes of housebreaking (which would include the vandalism) and assaults would be recorded. In multiple offence incidents, more than one offence may be counted rather than one for the incident as a whole; that is, the counting system is offence based rather than incident based.

An offence may have more than one victim – for example in robberies – and be committed by more than one offender – e.g. some assaults and housebreakings (note that for Murder, Attempted murder and Culpable homicide, the number of crimes recorded is equal to the number of victims). Thus the statistics in this bulletin are not directly comparable with statistics on action taken against offenders, as one offence may lead to several persons being charged. Equally, an offender may be charged with several offences.

Attempts to commit an offence are included in the statistics, in general in the same group as the substantive offence.

Information on the definitions used in this bulletin are provided in the [User Guide](#).

Annex 2: Data quality and validation

Governance of data quality

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 1 April 2013.

The recording of crime by the police and the subsequent publication of information through this statistical bulletin is undertaken by those who are professionally independent of wider decision-making and performance processes within their organisations. Within Police Scotland, the Crime Registrars ensure that crimes in Scotland are recorded ethically. They sit within the corporate services business area so that they are removed from direct operational activity and investigation. In turn, the production of the National Statistics on recorded crime is managed in an impartial and objective way, in the public interest, by Scottish Government statisticians.

A [Scottish Crime Recording Board](#) supports the production of accurate and objective statistics on crime in Scotland. It takes into account the needs of both users and providers in the production of crime statistics and ensures that this process is undertaken in a manner consistent with the [Code of Practice for Statistics](#). The Board is chaired by the Justice Analytical Services division of the Scottish Government and a wide range of organisations are represented including Police Scotland, the Scottish Police Authority, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS) and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS).

In general, this statistical bulletin covers the ten year period from 2012-13 to 2021-22, the entirety of which is subject to the Scottish Crime Recording Standard (SCRS) introduced in 2004-05. The SCRS has helped maintain a consistent approach to recording crime and is maintained and developed by the Scottish Crime Recording Board. The [SCRS manual](#) can be accessed from the Board's webpage.

The [User Guide](#) documents the steps undertaken to quality assure data that is captured and published as management information by Police Scotland, and analysed and produced as National Statistics by the Scottish Government. This includes a summary of the quality checks made at each stage of the data journey, from capture to publication.

Data validation: HMICS Crime Audit 2020

In 2020, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS) conducted an audit which assessed the extent to which police recording practices complied with the Scottish Crime Recording Standard and Counting Rules.

This audit found no systemic data quality issues around the recording of crimes and offences, with the resulting report stating that 'Police Scotland's compliance with the Scottish Crime Recording Standard and Counting Rules is generally good at over 90%'.

91.4% of incidents were closed correctly¹⁰ and 90.8% of crime was counted and classified correctly.

The 2020 audit also examined 3,150 incidents relating to domestic abuse, 1,001 of which resulted in a crime record. HMICS found that the compliance was good overall, as:

- 94.6% of domestic abuse incidents were closed correctly, which is a higher compliance rate than the other categories examined.
- 92.6% of domestic abuse crime records were counted and classified correctly.
- 95.2% of domestic abuse crimes were recorded within 72 hours of the incident being reported to the police, with ten of the thirteen divisions achieving over 95% compliance.

A more detailed discussion of the results of the audit and its relation to recorded crime is also provided in the [User Guide](#).

The full findings and analysis from this audit can be found in the [HMICS Crime Audit 2020 publication](#).

¹⁰ Correct closure means either that (a) the incident was closed as non-crime related and contained sufficient information to dispel any inference of criminality; or (b) the incident indicated a crime had occurred and a crime record was traced.

Annex 3: Legislation and procedural changes

This annex provides information on legislative changes and procedural changes to crime recording which will have had some effect on the recorded crime time series. It also provides information on future considerations that may have an impact on crime recording.

It should be noted that changes made to the rules governing the coding and counting of crimes and offences within the Scottish Crime Recording Standard (SCRS) must be approved by the Scottish Crime Recording Board (SCRB) ([Annex 2](#) provides background information on the role of the Board).

Changes in 2010-11:

Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009

The implementation of the Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009 on 1 December 2010 resulted in a number of changes to the recording of sexual crimes, including a redistribution of Sexual crimes among the categories and a widened definition of rape. A number of crimes which may have been recorded as Breach of the peace prior to the implementation of the Act would also not have shown up as sexual crimes before December 2010. Comparisons with data prior to 2010-11 for these categories should therefore be treated with caution.

Taking, distribution etc. indecent photos of children

In 2010-11, incidents of Taking, distribution etc. indecent photos of children were transferred from Miscellaneous offences to Sexual crimes and back-revised to 2009-10. Whilst these crimes represent a small proportion of sexual crimes (4% of all Sexual crimes in 2021-22), it has resulted in a small discontinuity in the time series for any analysis that spans 2009-10.

Change in 2016-17:

Abusive Behaviour and Sexual Harm (Scotland) Act 2016

The implementation of the Abusive Behaviour and Sexual Harm (Scotland) Act 2016 on 3 July 2017 resulted in new crimes of Disclosing or threatening to disclose an intimate image being recorded. This has contributed to the increase in Other sexual crimes. Whilst some of these cases may have been recorded as a different crime or offence had they occurred prior to the Act, it is likely the majority of them would not have been classified as a Sexual crime. The enactment of this legislation also extended the criminal law to criminalise certain conduct that previously may not have been illegal. There were 912 crimes of Disclosing or threatening to disclose an intimate image in 2021-22.

Changes in 2017-18:

Communications Act (2003) Sexual

In 2017-18, Communications Act 2003 (Sexual) offences were transferred from Miscellaneous offences group to Sexual crimes group.

This change involved reclassifying some activity from an offence group to a crime group, and so resulted in a small increase in total recorded crime, with 315 recorded in 2021-22.

Statistics for 2016-17 were back-revised within the 2017-18 bulletin, to ensure time series continuity was not affected. There will be some discontinuity for earlier years as Communications Act 2003 offences with a sexual element were not separately identifiable within the statistics until 2016-17.

Changes to the recording of handling offensive weapons in 2017-18

Changes in recorded crime from 2017-18 should be treated with some caution due to the addition of newly recorded crimes of handling an offensive weapon. Further information on this procedural change and its impact on the statistics is available in the [chapter on Crimes against society](#). This change will have an impact on the comparability of recorded crime statistics for all years prior to 2017-18. However the impact will be smaller for earlier years (for example comparisons with 2012-13) when set against the long term changes in total crime recorded by the police and other legislative and procedural changes made to the recording of crime during this period.

Classification of Etizolam as a Class C drug

Etizolam has been classified as a Class C drug by the May 2017 amendment to the [Misuse of Drugs Act 1971](#), along with several other designer benzodiazepine drugs.

Changes in 2019-20:

Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018

The Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 came into force on 1 April 2019. The Act created a new offence of abusive behaviour as a course of conduct¹¹ towards a partner or ex-partner. Prior to the 1 April 2019, any criminal act which formed part of a domestic abuse incident (such as a Common assault, Stalking, or Threatening or abusive behaviour) was included within the statistics under the relevant crime or offence. Where there is evidence of a course of conduct, new crime codes of Domestic abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 (against a male or female victim) have been created. In general, existing common law and statutory offences will continue to be recorded where appropriate, in addition to the new crimes. There are some limited exceptions (in particular Threatening and abusive behaviour and Stalking), which should no longer be recorded when occurring as part of a course of conduct for Domestic Abuse, with the crime of Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 taking precedence.

Coronavirus restrictions legislation

The enactment of legislation such as the Coronavirus Act 2020 and Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Restrictions) (Scotland) Regulations 2020 (implemented on 25 March and 27 March 2020 respectively) led to new and additional crimes being recorded within these statistics. For example, where someone, who had left the place they were living during lockdown, did not have a reasonable excuse for this when asked by a police officer, and failed to comply with police advice or instruction to return there. Further legislation in respect of local travel restrictions came in to force on 2 November 2020.

¹¹ A course of conduct involves behaviour on at least two occasions.

Change in 2020-21:

Recording of international crime

A procedural change was made from 1 April 2020 to how crimes which could involve a victim and a perpetrator in different physical locations (e.g. cyber-crimes) are recorded. Prior to the 1 April 2020, these statistics excluded any crime with a victim in Scotland and a perpetrator who was confirmed by the police to be outside the UK when the crime took place. Following a recommendation by HMICS to review recording practice in this area¹², the SCRB approved a change so that from the 1 April 2020 these crimes are now included in the statistics. It should be noted that those cases with only a suspicion or insufficient evidence to confirm that the perpetrator was outside the UK were always included.

This change led to the recording of additional crimes for those types of crime which could be committed using digital technologies.

Changes in 2021-22:

Breach of adult at risk banning order

From 1 April 2021, Adult Protection Act Offences (39/019) will no longer be counted as crimes. The reason for this is that the charge does not relate to a criminal offence and was created to allow the circumstances to be reported to the Procurator Fiscal. Having reviewed the earlier data recorded under this code, it was decided not to back date this change within the statistics, as the numbers are negligible in the context of the Crimes against society group.

Protection of Workers Act

The Protection of Workers (Retail and Age-restricted Goods and Services) (Scotland) Act 2021 came into effect from 24 August 2021. The Act makes it an offence for a person to assault, threaten or abuse another person who is a retail worker and who is engaged, at the time of the offence, in retail work. Committing this offence while a retail worker is enforcing a statutory age restriction also constitutes an aggravation.

Future considerations

The Offensive Weapons Act received Royal Assent in May 2019. The Act will make it illegal to possess dangerous weapons in private, and will make it a criminal offence to dispatch bladed products sold online without verifying the buyer is over 18. The Act also makes it an offence to possess a corrosive substance in a public place, and has updated the definition of a flick knife to reflect changing weapons design. The Scottish Crime Recording Board will continue to monitor the implementation of this Act and users will be informed of what impact these changes will have on the presentation of the National Statistics.

As of 1 April 2022, crimes previously recorded as Other criminal conduct, money laundering related offences and Drugs, money laundering related offences will now be recorded as Proceeds of Crime. The Scottish Crime Recording Board reviewed the use of

¹² [HMICS | Crime Audit: 2016](#)

these three crime codes and agreed that they should be merged as they all largely relate to the same piece of legislation ([Proceeds of Crime Act 2002](#)).

Following the consultations run in [2019](#) and [2021](#), the Scottish Crime Recording Board has agreed that common assault should be split into with and without injury and that new crime codes will also be introduced to help identify police officer/staff victims of all types of assault. To ensure that the new information on common assault is recorded consistently and to prevent duplication of work, the Scottish Crime Recording Board also that implementation of this change will wait until Police Scotland's new crime management system has been rolled out to all divisions.

Annex 4: User engagement

Scotland's recorded crime National Statistics presented in this bulletin are used by a large number of stakeholders within central government, the police and other public bodies for a variety of purposes. We continuously engage with users to gather their views on how best to ensure that these statistics remain of high value and relevant, through their capacity to support understanding of the important issues relating to crime in Scotland (alongside other complementary sources of official statistics and research).

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 to: justiceanalysts@gov.scot.

The [standard survey for statistical products](#) is now live. The survey provides users a way to share feedback on our publications.

If you would like to be kept informed about developments in crime statistics, we suggest registering with our [ScotStat](#). Please note that the Scottish Government moved to a new system on the 1 March 2022. While the underlying system has changed, the ScotStat branding will be retained and the new system will serve the same function. Existing ScotStat users should re-register with the new system to continue to receive updates. Further information and a signup form is available at the following link: [ScotStat Register: Guidance](#).

As part of this, we ran a [consultation in 2021](#) on behalf of the [Scottish Crime Recording Board](#) (SCRB). This focused on the production and dissemination of Scotland's recorded crime statistics, and on the possible development of new statistical products covering other types of policing activity. The consultation built on earlier engagement with users in 2019¹³ and invited views on an alternative way to group and present recorded crime statistics. The full [Summary of Responses to the 2021 consultation](#) can be accessed online.

Following consideration of the responses received, along with other feedback from the associated consultation events and previous consultation, the SCRB approved a number of changes to the recorded crime statistics which affect this year's (2021-22) bulletin. [Annex 5](#) provides details on these changes and next steps in the production of statistics on recorded crime.

Further information on previous user consultations and uses of the statistics can be found in the [User Guide](#).

¹³ A [report summarising the responses](#) received through this earlier engagement was published in June 2021, following some delay due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and the resultant increase in demand for associated analysis.

Annex 5: New crime grouping structure and next steps in the production of crime statistics

This annex provides information on the new crime grouping structure used for recorded crime statistics. This 2021-22 annual bulletin is the first to reflect the new structure, following consultation with users and after discussion and approval from the SCRB. It also provides information on next steps in the production of crime statistics.

The main changes which affect this year's (2021-22) bulletin are as follows:

- a new set of crime and offence groups has been introduced, as presented in Table A below
- common assault has been reclassified to a crime rather than an offence
- Stalking has been reclassified to a crime rather than an offence

More detailed information on the changes which have been made to the grouping structure are listed below.

There are a number of changes which will impact the production of crime statistics going forward, as follows:

- common assault to be split into common assault with injury and common assault without injury, and new crime codes to be introduced to help identify police officer/staff victims of all types of assault. The timing for the introduction of these changes is to be confirmed, based on the roll out of Police Scotland's new crime management system
- the [Recorded Crime Monthly Official Statistics](#), which were introduced to inform users about the volume and type of crimes and offences recorded in Scotland during the pandemic, were discontinued following publication of the March 2022 bulletin in April 2022. They will be replaced with a quarterly release of National Statistics, which will present the latest rolling 12-month period. The first of these will be published in August 2022

Crime Grouping Structure

The new crime grouping structure (used for the first time in this bulletin) retains a similar number of groups to the previous structure, but provides more detail at the second level of disaggregation, with a 'top-50' category structure.






As before, we continue to include additional tables within the statistics which break down categories further for particular types of crimes where there is a known user interest. The new grouping structure is presented in Table A below.

It should be noted that the grouping of criminal acts is a purely statistical exercise that has no impact on how a case is investigated or prosecuted. The new groups are backdated

within the statistics so that there is no discontinuity to the time series. As this is the first year of this change we are also publishing tables using the old groups in the '[Supporting documents](#)' tables.

Several other statistical publications use the crime grouping structure. We will ensure that these products also make a smooth transition to the new groups, protecting time series analysis and keeping users informed via ScotStat.

Table A: Comparison between new and previous crime grouping structure

Previous Crime Groups		New Crime Groups
Non-sexual crimes of violence Homicide etc. (incl. causing death by driving) Attempted murder & serious assault Robbery Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 Other violence		Non-sexual crimes of violence Murder and culpable homicide Death by dangerous driving Serious assault and attempted murder Common assault Robbery Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 Other non-sexual violence
Sexual crimes Rape & attempted rape Sexual assault Crimes associated with prostitution Other sexual crimes		Sexual crimes Rape & attempted rape Sexual assault Causing to view sexual activity or images Communicating indecently Threatening to or disclosing intimate images Indecent photos of children Crimes associated with prostitution Other sexual crimes
Crimes of dishonesty Housebreaking Theft by opening a lockfast place (OLP) Theft from a motor vehicle by OLP Theft of a motor vehicle Shoplifting Other theft Fraud Other dishonesty		Crimes of dishonesty Housebreaking Theft by opening lockfast places Theft from a Motor Vehicle Theft of motor vehicle Shoplifting Other theft Fraud Other dishonesty
Fire-raising, vandalism etc. Fire-raising Vandalism etc.		Damage and reckless behaviour Vandalism Reckless conduct Fire-raising
Other crimes Crimes against public justice Handling offensive weapons <i>Not used in other criminal activity</i> <i>Used in other criminal activity</i> Drugs Other		Crimes against society Crimes against public justice Weapons possession (not used) Weapons possession (used) Drugs – Supply Drugs – Possession Other crimes against society

Coronavirus restrictions		➔	Coronavirus restrictions	
Previous Offence Groups			New Offence Groups	
Miscellaneous offences Common assault Breach of the peace etc. Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct Urinating etc. Other		➔	Antisocial offences Threatening and abusive behaviour Racially aggravated conduct Drunkenness & other disorderly conduct Urinating etc.	
			Miscellaneous offences Community and public order offences Environmental offences Licensing offences Wildlife offences Other misc. offences	
Motor vehicle offences Dangerous and careless driving Driving under the influence Speeding Unlawful use of vehicle Vehicle defect offences Seat belt offences Mobile phone offences Other		➔	Road traffic offences Dangerous & careless driving Driving under the influence Speeding Unlawful use of motor vehicle Vehicle defect offences Seat belt offences Mobile phone offences Other road traffic offences	

The [User Guide](#) provides a breakdown of all crime codes for the new crime grouping structure. The '[Supporting documents](#)' Excel workbook contains two tables (Tables S1 and S2) showing the statistics (from 2012-13 to 2021-22) on crimes and offences calculated using the previous crime grouping structure.

Overview of Grouping changes

More detailed information on the changes which have been to the grouping structure are listed below.

Non-sexual crimes of violence

- Split Homicide etc. into two categories: Murder and culpable homicide, and Death by dangerous driving
- Reclassify Common assault as a crime, sitting as its own category within the Non-sexual crimes of violence group (in 2020-21 there were just over 52,000 common assaults)
- Reclassify Stalking as a crime, sitting within the Other non-sexual violence category of the Non-sexual crimes of violence group (in 2020-21 there were around 900 offences of stalking)

- Move Female genital mutilation from Non-sexual crimes of violence – Other non-sexual violence to Non-sexual crimes of violence – Serious assault and attempted murder

Sexual crimes

- Split Other sexual crimes into five categories:
 - Causing to view sexual activity or images
 - Communicating indecently
 - Threatening to or disclosing intimate images
 - Indecent photos of children
 - Other sexual crimes

Crimes of dishonesty

- No changes

Damage and reckless behaviour

- Change the name from Fire-raising, vandalism etc. to Damage and reckless behaviour
- Split Vandalism etc. into two categories: Vandalism and Reckless conduct

Crimes against society

- Change name from Other crimes to Crimes against society
- Split Drug crimes into two categories: Drugs – possession and Drugs – supply

Coronavirus Restrictions

- No changes

Offences

- Split the Miscellaneous offences group into two groups: Antisocial offences and Miscellaneous offences (multiple new categories)
- Remove Common assault and Stalking (reclassifying as Non-sexual crimes of violence)
- Change name from Motor vehicle offences to Road traffic offences
- Crime codes relating to the (mis)use of bikes moved from Miscellaneous offences to Road traffic offences. The [User Guide](#) provides more details on the crime codes affected

As noted above, these changes collectively resulted in a ‘Top 50’ category structure, compared to the previous ‘Top 35’.

For information on the impact of these changes, please see the [Technical Report on statistical impact of changing to new groups](#) section of the consultation report.

Tell us what you think

We are always interested to hear from our users about how our statistics are used, and how they can be improved.

Please consider answering our short [feedback survey](#) on how you found this publication.

A National Statistics Publication for Scotland

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs
- are produced, managed and disseminated to high standards
- are explained well

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How to access background or source data

The data collected for this publication:

- are available in through statistics.gov.scot
- may be made available on request, subject to consideration of legal and ethical factors. Please contact JusticeAnalysts@gov.scot for further information.

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