



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## **PSNI Annual Statistical Report**

**Report No. 2**

# **DOMESTIC ABUSE INCIDENTS & CRIMES**

**1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 2009 – 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2010**

**Central Statistics Branch, Operational Support Department**

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Data Quality: The PSNI's statistics on incidents and crimes with a domestic abuse motivation are derived from a motivation 'tick box' contained in the Occurrence Management Form which has to be completed by a police officer or member of police staff for each such reported incident/crime. The correct application of a domestic abuse motivation for all such incidents/crimes is not quality assured by the PSNI's Central Statistics Branch, but quarterly audits are conducted to ensure that any under or over-recording is corrected.

## 2. Domestic Abuse Incidents and Crimes

### Summary

#### Definitions

#### Incidents

Any incident of threatening behaviour, violence, or abuse (psychological, physical, verbal, sexual, financial or emotional) by one family member against another or adults who are or have been intimate partners, regardless of gender, and whether a crime has occurred or not, will be recorded as domestic abuse. The domestic abuse definition is provided in full at the end of this bulletin.

#### Recorded Crimes

- Recorded crimes (sometimes referred to as notifiable offences) are those which are deemed to be indictable or triable-either-way. A full explanation of how recorded crime figures are produced is provided on the last page of this bulletin.
- A crime will be recorded as domestic abuse where it meets the definition provided above. Not all domestic abuse incidents will result in the recording of a crime.
- Domestic abuse crimes are classified according to the Home Office Counting Rules and form a subset of the overall recorded crime figures.

**Table 2.1: Domestic Abuse Motivation: Incidents, Crimes and Detections Summary 2008/09 and 2009/10**

	2008/09	2009/10	change
<b>Total number of incidents</b>	23,591	24,482	+891
<b>Total number of crimes</b>	9,211	9,903	+692
<b>Total number of crimes detected</b>	3,486	4,288	+802
<b>Detection rate (%)<sup>1</sup></b>	37.8	43.3	+5.5% pts

<sup>1</sup> While the detection rates are rounded to one decimal place, the detection rate change in % pts is calculated on the unrounded detection rates and then rounded to one decimal place.

#### Incidents

- Between 2008/09 and 2009/10 the number of domestic abuse incidents increased by 891 (+3.8%).

#### Recorded Crimes

- There were 9,903 crimes with a domestic abuse motivation recorded in 2009/10, which is an increase of 692 (+7.5%) on 2008/09.

#### Detection Rates

- The overall detection rate for crimes with a domestic abuse motivation in 2009/10 was 43.3%, 5.5 percentage points higher than in 2008/09.

**Table 2.2: Domestic Abuse Motivation: Incidents, Recorded Crimes and Detections by District<sup>1</sup> 2008/09 and 2009/10**

	Total number of incidents				Total offences recorded <sup>2</sup>				Total offences detected		Detection rate (%)		
	2008/09	2009/10	change	% change	2008/09	2009/10	change	% change	2008/09	2009/10	2008/09	2009/10	change in % pts <sup>3</sup>
<b>A District</b>	3,415	3,277	-138	-4.0	1,205	1,186	-19	-1.6	497	529	41.2	44.6	+3.4
<b>B District</b>	2,136	2,152	+16	+0.7	834	806	-28	-3.4	257	373	30.8	46.3	+15.5
<b>C District</b>	2,679	2,611	-68	-2.5	1,029	1,187	+158	+15.4	349	516	33.9	43.5	+9.6
<b>D District</b>	3,816	3,837	+21	+0.6	1,389	1,610	+221	+15.9	614	733	44.2	45.5	+1.3
<b>E District</b>	3,527	3,597	+70	+2.0	1,429	1,554	+125	+8.7	477	614	33.4	39.5	+6.1
<b>F District</b>	2,018	2,217	+199	+9.9	781	906	+125	+16.0	318	408	40.7	45.0	+4.3
<b>G District</b>	3,608	4,137	+529	+14.7	1,417	1,521	+104	+7.3	545	660	38.5	43.4	+4.9
<b>H District</b>	2,392	2,654	+262	+11.0	1,127	1,133	+6	+0.5	429	455	38.1	40.2	+2.1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>23,591</b>	<b>24,482</b>	<b>+891</b>	<b>+3.8</b>	<b>9,211</b>	<b>9,903</b>	<b>+692</b>	<b>+7.5</b>	<b>3,486</b>	<b>4,288</b>	<b>37.8</b>	<b>43.3</b>	<b>+5.5</b>

<sup>1</sup> A map showing the Areas covered by each District is provided on the last page of this bulletin.

<sup>2</sup> Figures shown above for domestic abuse offences recorded and detected do not include assault on police. However assault on police is included in the incident figures.

<sup>3</sup> While the detection rates are rounded to one decimal place, the detection rate change in % pts is calculated on the unrounded detection rates and then rounded to one decimal place.

**Table 2.3: Recorded Crimes with a Domestic Abuse Motivation: Gender and age of victims by District<sup>1</sup> 2008/09 and 2009/10**

	Females 17 and over		Males 17 and over		Children under 17		Gender / age unknown <sup>2</sup>		Total Offences <sup>3</sup>	
	2008/09	2009/10	2008/09	2009/10	2008/09	2009/10	2008/09	2009/10	2008/09	2009/10
<b>A District</b>	760	754	215	193	87	85	143	154	1,205	1,186
<b>B District</b>	506	490	168	156	65	84	95	76	834	806
<b>C District</b>	584	718	211	217	103	87	131	165	1,029	1,187
<b>D District</b>	849	962	264	326	103	121	173	201	1,389	1,610
<b>E District</b>	798	898	327	334	97	125	207	197	1,429	1,554
<b>F District</b>	433	554	168	194	93	86	87	72	781	906
<b>G District</b>	814	895	271	302	142	124	190	200	1,417	1,521
<b>H District</b>	692	658	210	232	84	93	141	150	1,127	1,133
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>5,436</b>	<b>5,929</b>	<b>1,834</b>	<b>1,954</b>	<b>774</b>	<b>805</b>	<b>1,167</b>	<b>1,215</b>	<b>9,211</b>	<b>9,903</b>

<sup>1</sup> A map showing the Areas covered by each District is provided on the last page of this bulletin.

<sup>2</sup> The gender/age unknown figures include breach of non molestation orders, which are not recorded against individual victims and therefore do not have an associated age or gender.

<sup>3</sup> The domestic abuse offence figures shown above do not include assault on police

**Table 2.4: Domestic Abuse Motivation: Incidents, Recorded Crimes and Detections by Area 2008/09 and 2009/10**

	Total number of incidents				Total offences recorded <sup>1</sup>				Total offences detected		Detection rate (%)		
	2008/09	2009/10	change	% change	2008/09	2009/10	change	% change	2008/09	2009/10	2008/09	2009/10	change in % pts <sup>2</sup>
<b>Antrim</b>	622	732	+110	+17.7	245	352	+107	+43.7	121	153	49.4	43.5	-5.9
<b>Ards</b>	788	741	-47	-6.0	283	330	+47	+16.6	91	142	32.2	43.0	+10.9
<b>East Belfast</b>	1,269	1,363	+94	+7.4	453	449	-4	-0.9	152	212	33.6	47.2	+13.7
<b>North Belfast</b>	2,053	1,928	-125	-6.1	791	713	-78	-9.9	339	322	42.9	45.2	+2.3
<b>South Belfast</b>	867	789	-78	-9.0	381	357	-24	-6.3	105	161	27.6	45.1	+17.5
<b>West Belfast</b>	1,362	1,349	-13	-1.0	414	473	+59	+14.3	158	207	38.2	43.8	+5.6
<b>Carrickfergus</b>	511	463	-48	-9.4	193	190	-3	-1.6	97	90	50.3	47.4	-2.9
<b>Castlereagh</b>	496	494	-2	-0.4	172	199	+27	+15.7	59	98	34.3	49.2	+14.9
<b>Down</b>	686	702	+16	+2.3	267	331	+64	+24.0	107	143	40.1	43.2	+3.1
<b>Lisburn</b>	1,735	1,765	+30	+1.7	539	662	+123	+22.8	245	291	45.5	44.0	-1.5
<b>Newtownabbey</b>	948	877	-71	-7.5	412	406	-6	-1.5	151	199	36.7	49.0	+12.4
<b>North Down</b>	709	674	-35	-4.9	307	327	+20	+6.5	92	133	30.0	40.7	+10.7
<b>Urban Region</b>	<b>12,046</b>	<b>11,877</b>	<b>-169</b>	<b>-1.4</b>	<b>4,457</b>	<b>4,789</b>	<b>+332</b>	<b>+7.4</b>	<b>1,717</b>	<b>2,151</b>	<b>38.5</b>	<b>44.9</b>	<b>+6.4</b>
<b>Amagh</b>	574	658	+84	+14.6	198	245	+47	+23.7	70	95	35.4	38.8	+3.4
<b>Ballymena</b>	718	827	+109	+15.2	378	399	+21	+5.6	144	165	38.1	41.4	+3.3
<b>Ballymoney</b>	322	335	+13	+4.0	130	136	+6	+4.6	35	62	26.9	45.6	+18.7
<b>Banbridge</b>	395	503	+108	+27.3	158	160	+2	+1.3	59	69	37.3	43.1	+5.8
<b>Coleraine</b>	905	900	-5	-0.6	396	348	-48	-12.1	147	118	37.1	33.9	-3.2
<b>Cookstown</b>	411	461	+50	+12.2	143	186	+43	+30.1	51	95	35.7	51.1	+15.4
<b>Craigavon</b>	1,433	1,306	-127	-8.9	611	620	+9	+1.5	179	211	29.3	34.0	+4.7
<b>Dungannon &amp; South Tyrone</b>	357	450	+93	+26.1	154	237	+83	+53.9	56	103	36.4	43.5	+7.1
<b>Fermanagh</b>	531	551	+20	+3.8	243	252	+9	+3.7	95	110	39.1	43.7	+4.6
<b>Foyle</b>	2,115	2,429	+314	+14.8	823	949	+126	+15.3	280	410	34.0	43.2	+9.2
<b>Larne</b>	301	408	+107	+35.5	162	167	+5	+3.1	88	83	54.3	49.7	-4.6
<b>Limavady</b>	544	535	-9	-1.7	266	269	+3	+1.1	116	116	43.6	43.1	-0.5
<b>Magherafelt</b>	279	431	+152	+54.5	106	118	+12	+11.3	57	59	53.8	50.0	-3.8
<b>Moyle</b>	146	184	+38	+26.0	61	83	+22	+36.1	15	27	24.6	32.5	+7.9
<b>Newry &amp; Mourne</b>	1,125	1,130	+5	+0.4	462	529	+67	+14.5	169	239	36.6	45.2	+8.6
<b>Omagh</b>	719	755	+36	+5.0	241	231	-10	-4.1	116	100	48.1	43.3	-4.8
<b>Strabane</b>	670	742	+72	+10.7	222	185	-37	-16.7	92	75	41.4	40.5	-0.9
<b>Rural Region</b>	<b>11,545</b>	<b>12,605</b>	<b>+1,060</b>	<b>+9.2</b>	<b>4,754</b>	<b>5,114</b>	<b>+360</b>	<b>+7.6</b>	<b>1,769</b>	<b>2,137</b>	<b>37.2</b>	<b>41.8</b>	<b>+4.6</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>23,591</b>	<b>24,482</b>	<b>+891</b>	<b>+3.8</b>	<b>9,211</b>	<b>9,903</b>	<b>+692</b>	<b>+7.5</b>	<b>3,486</b>	<b>4,288</b>	<b>37.8</b>	<b>43.3</b>	<b>+5.5</b>

<sup>1</sup> Figures shown above for domestic abuse offences recorded and detected do not include assault on police. However assault on police is included in the incident figures.

<sup>2</sup> While the detection rates are rounded to one decimal place, the detection rate change in % pts is calculated on the unrounded detection rates and then rounded to one decimal place.

**Table 2.5: Recorded Crimes with a Domestic Abuse Motivation: Gender and age of victims by Area 2008/09 and 2009/10**

	Females 17 and over		Males 17 and over		Children under 17		Gender / age unknown <sup>1</sup>		Total Offences <sup>2</sup>	
	2008/09	2009/10	2008/09	2009/10	2008/09	2009/10	2008/09	2009/10	2008/09	2009/10
Antrim	148	204	48	68	17	27	32	53	245	352
Ards	144	197	65	68	37	25	37	40	283	330
East Belfast	273	255	81	90	38	56	61	48	453	449
North Belfast	512	451	145	123	66	61	68	78	791	713
South Belfast	233	235	87	66	27	28	34	28	381	357
West Belfast	248	303	70	70	21	24	75	76	414	473
Carrickfergus	132	115	30	43	12	12	19	20	193	190
Castlereagh	102	121	34	33	15	16	21	29	172	199
Down	157	209	51	57	30	17	29	48	267	331
Lisburn	305	376	115	135	40	57	79	94	539	662
Newtownabbey	264	267	71	80	34	25	43	34	412	406
North Down	181	191	61	59	21	29	44	48	307	327
<b>Urban Region</b>	<b>2,699</b>	<b>2,924</b>	<b>858</b>	<b>892</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>542</b>	<b>596</b>	<b>4,457</b>	<b>4,789</b>
Armagh	109	123	43	51	22	27	24	44	198	245
Ballymena	242	232	77	78	19	36	40	53	378	399
Ballymoney	71	69	35	28	7	15	17	24	130	136
Banbridge	93	96	28	40	12	7	25	17	158	160
Coleraine	238	201	62	85	39	22	57	40	396	348
Cookstown	79	104	31	38	18	23	15	21	143	186
Craigavon	340	372	146	129	40	57	85	62	611	620
Dungannon & South Tyrone	100	164	27	39	14	20	13	14	154	237
Fermanagh	126	158	45	56	36	22	36	16	243	252
Foyle	471	565	160	184	67	64	125	136	823	949
Larne	100	100	23	30	15	12	24	25	162	167
Limavady	143	151	63	55	27	27	33	36	266	269
Magherafelt	77	73	10	27	11	9	8	9	106	118
Moyle	41	56	13	11	4	8	3	8	61	83
Newry & Mourne	256	307	110	114	23	34	73	74	462	529
Omagh	128	128	65	61	25	21	23	21	241	231
Strabane	123	106	38	36	37	24	24	19	222	185
<b>Rural Region</b>	<b>2,737</b>	<b>3,005</b>	<b>976</b>	<b>1,062</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>619</b>	<b>4,754</b>	<b>5,114</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>5,436</b>	<b>5,929</b>	<b>1,834</b>	<b>1,954</b>	<b>774</b>	<b>805</b>	<b>1,167</b>	<b>1,215</b>	<b>9,211</b>	<b>9,903</b>

<sup>1</sup> The gender/age unknown figures include breach of non molestation orders, which are not recorded against individual victims and therefore do not have an associated age or gender.

<sup>2</sup> The domestic abuse offence figures shown above do not include assault on police.

## Police Recording of Crime - Definitions

### Recorded Crime

Recorded crime figures (sometimes referred to as notifiable offences) detail those crimes and offences (including attempts) recorded by the police which are deemed to be indictable or triable-either-way. Certain closely associated summary offences are also counted in the recorded crime figures.

**Indictable offences** are those more serious crimes which are tried on indictment in the Crown Court by a judge and jury;

**Triable-either-way offences** are those offences which, under certain circumstances, are triable either summarily in a magistrates court or on indictment in the Crown Court;

**Summary offences** are less serious and are tried in a Magistrates Court before a resident magistrate with no jury.

The number of crimes recorded by the police is dependent on two factors:

- Whether the victim or a representative of the victim brings that crime to the attention of the police or on the crime coming to the attention of the police through some other means (such as the police officer being present at the time);
- Whether that incident is determined as being a recordable offence within the categories laid down by the Home Office in the official counting rules.

### Detections

Detections (or clearances as they may alternatively be known) are, broadly speaking, those crimes that have been 'cleared up' by the police. Crimes are counted as 'detected or cleared' in accordance with strict counting rules issued by the Home Office. They are counted on the basis of crimes rather than offenders. For example, if six offenders are involved in a robbery and are all arrested and charged, then this counts as one detection (i.e. the robbery is deemed to be 'detected'). Alternatively if only one of the six is identified and charged while the other five remain unidentified and at large, this also means that the robbery can still be deemed as 'detected'.

The following methods of detection involve a formal sanction:

- Charging or issuing a summons to an offender;
- Issuing a caution to the offender;
- Having the offence accepted for consideration in court;
- The offender is a juvenile who is dealt with by means of an informed warning, restorative caution or prosecutorial diversion.

In addition, for the most serious offence types ('indictable only' – see recorded crime paragraph above for explanation) a non sanction detection can be claimed if:

- The Public Prosecution Service (PPS) directs no prosecution; or
- The case cannot proceed because the offender has died.

### Domestic Abuse Definition as defined by the Northern Ireland Regional Steering Group on Domestic Violence

Domestic abuse is defined as 'any incident of threatening behaviour, violence, or abuse (psychological, physical, verbal, sexual, financial or emotional) inflicted on one person by another where they are or have been intimate partners or family members, irrespective of gender or sexual orientation.

The following will assist in the application of this definition:

(i) 'Incident' means an incident anywhere and not confined to the home of one of the partners/family members;

(ii) 'Family members' include mother, father, son, daughter, brother, sister, grandparents, whether directly or indirectly related, in-laws or stepfamily:

(iii) 'Intimate partners' means there must have been a relationship with a degree of continuity and stability. The relationship must also have had (or reasonably supposed to have had) a sexual aspect, such as in the relationship between husband and wife or between others generally recognised as a couple including same sex couples.

PSNI POLICING DISTRICTS FROM 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 2007

