

Police Service of Northern Ireland

Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents Recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland: Monthly Update to 31 July 2011

Published 08 September 2011

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This monthly bulletin presents the most recent statistics on anti-social behaviour incidents, relating to incidents recorded by the police to 31st July 2011. Figures were compiled on 05 September 2011. Anti-social behaviour incidents are extracted from an operational system and, as such, are always subject to change. Unlike police recorded crime figures they are never published as finalised figures.

MAIN POINTS

- Overall anti-social behaviour incidents fell by 8.0% in the year ending 30th July 2011 compared with a year earlier.
- Over the last two years anti-social behaviour incidents were at their lowest level in January 2011 with 4,778 incidents recorded. Since then they showed an upward trend to reach 6,170 in April 2011, before falling again in May 2011. Figures increased in June and again in July. The current level of 6,915 in July 2011 is 1,519 (28.2%) higher than for June, and is the highest monthly figure since October 2010.

Figure 1 Total number of anti-social behaviour incidents each month August 2009 to July 2011

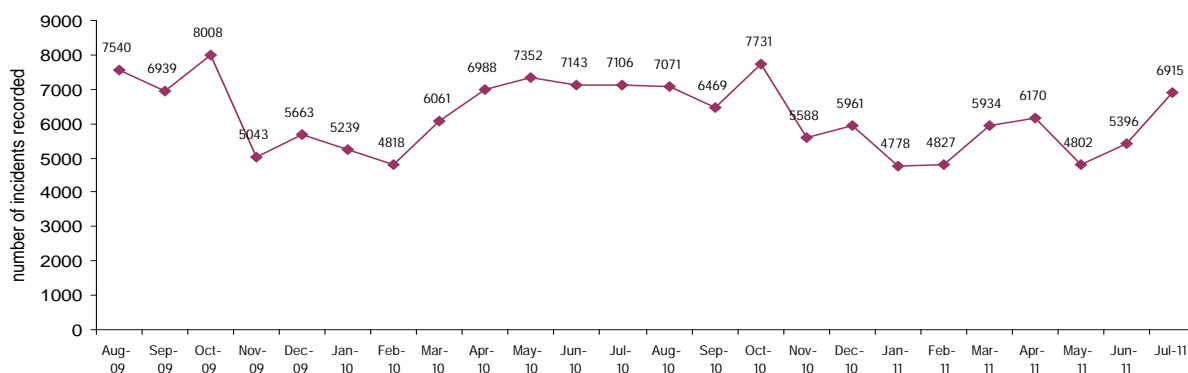
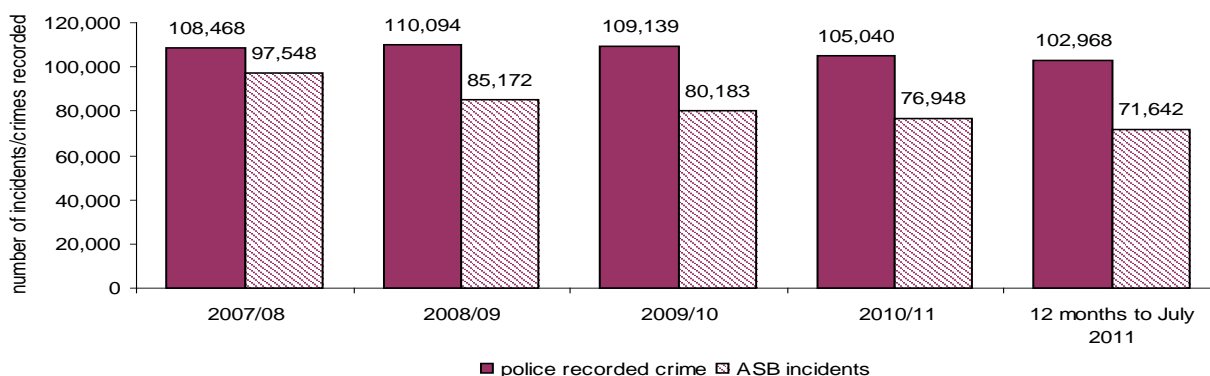


Table 1 Number of anti-social behaviour incidents in the year to 31 July 2011 compared with the previous year

	Numbers and percentages		
	12 months to July 2010	12 months to July 2011	% change between years
Anti-social behaviour incidents	77,900	71,642	-8.0

Figure 2 Police recorded crime and anti-social behaviour incidents since 2007/08



- Anti-social behaviour incidents have decreased year on year since 2007/08 while police recorded crime figures have decreased each year since 2008/09.

NOTES

Anti-social behaviour incident data is the output from a command and control system which is used to respond to calls for service from members of the public by prioritising the call and tasking the appropriate police response. Each incident is closed off using codes and definitions set out in the National Standard for Incident Recording, designed to provide a common approach to be followed by police forces in England, Wales and Northern Ireland in classifying the broad range of calls for service received. These figures should be interpreted as 'calls for service' rather than as figures which reflect the true level of victimisation. In addition they will provide an incomplete count of the extent of reported anti-social behaviour as incidents reported to other agencies, such as local councils, will generally not be included in police figures.

Data on anti-social behaviour incidents reported to the police have been compiled since the NSIR was introduced in April 2006. Between April 2006 and March 2011, ASB incidents were split into fourteen different incident types, and these categories were used as the basis on which ASB incident levels were reported.

Following Home Office national guidance introduced on 1st April 2011 on how police forces record ASB incidents, the existing approach was changed to focus more on the needs of the caller or risk to the caller rather than the previous approach which centred on categorising the type of ASB incident. As a result the number of ASB incident types has been reduced from fourteen to three. The focus is now on how the ASB incident being reported impacts on the caller, with emphasis placed on identifying the vulnerable individuals, communities and environments most at risk.

While the national guidance and incident types for anti-social behaviour changed from 1st April 2011, the overall levels before and after this change appear to be such that it seems appropriate to continue to produce a time series of figures recorded under both the previous and the current guidance. However it should be noted that the figures prior to 1st April 2011 presented in this bulletin and in the accompanying excel spreadsheet exclude the incident type 'Hoax Calls to Emergency Services', which was one of the fourteen incident types in use between 2006/07 and 2010/11. Incidents of this nature were removed from the Anti-Social Behaviour category and placed in the Public Safety and Welfare category from the start of April 2011. This incident type was removed from figures prior to 1st April 2011 to maintain data comparability.

Data Accuracy

As anti-social behaviour incidents are extracted from an operational system whose primary function is to prioritise and respond to calls for service from members of the public, the data will always be subject to change. Incidents of anti-social behaviour are not individually checked for compliance with the National Standard for Incident Recording by the PSNI's Statistics Branch. However Statistics Branch conduct audits of anti-social behaviour incidents which, for the current financial year, will commence in September 2011. Common types of errors in the application of incident closure codes identified through the audit process are fed back to relevant staff. A breakdown of the current incident types for anti-social behaviour (personal, nuisance and environmental) will not be made available until an assessment of the data accuracy has been completed.

Additional data

This bulletin shows a Northern Ireland level summary of anti-social behaviour incidents recorded by the police for the 12 months to July 2011. Additional figures to accompany this bulletin are published in a spreadsheet: http://www.psnipolice.uk/monthly_asb_update_apr-jul_11_12.xls. This spreadsheet contains a pivot table providing statistics on anti-social behaviour incidents, available:

- at Northern Ireland level as well as for each policing district and policing area; and
- for a range of time periods (previous and current rolling 12 months, previous and current financial years to date and each of the last 24 months).

The pivot table allows the user to manipulate the data, select the data they are most interested in and carry out calculations on the data. The data records displayed in the pivot table are also available in this spreadsheet.

Further information

Information on perceptions of anti-social behaviour is available from the Northern Ireland Crime Survey and can be accessed through the Department of Justice Internet Site: <http://www.dojni.gov.uk/index/statistics-research/stats-research-publications.htm>.

Copies of other PSNI publications are available from the PSNI Internet site: http://www.psnipolice.uk/index/updates/updates_statistics.htm

For further information about the anti-social behaviour statistics for Northern Ireland, or to contact the PSNI Responsible Statistician please:

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Telephone: 0845 600 8000 ext 24135, Fax: 028 9092 2998