

Police Service of Northern Ireland

Domestic Abuse Incidents and Crimes Recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland: Quarterly Update to 31 March 2016

(Providing final figures for 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016)

Published 12 May 2016

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This quarterly bulletin presents the most recent statistics relating to domestic abuse incidents and crimes recorded by the police for the financial year 2015/16, which runs from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016.

A range of more detailed tables are available in the [excel summary table](#) and [excel pivot table data](#) which accompany this bulletin. Further information on the contents of these tables can be found in the NOTES page at the end of the bulletin.

A more comprehensive publication covering trends from 2004/05 to 2015/16 will be available in July/August 2016. The next quarterly update covering the latest 12 months to 30 June 2016 will be published on 25 August 2016.

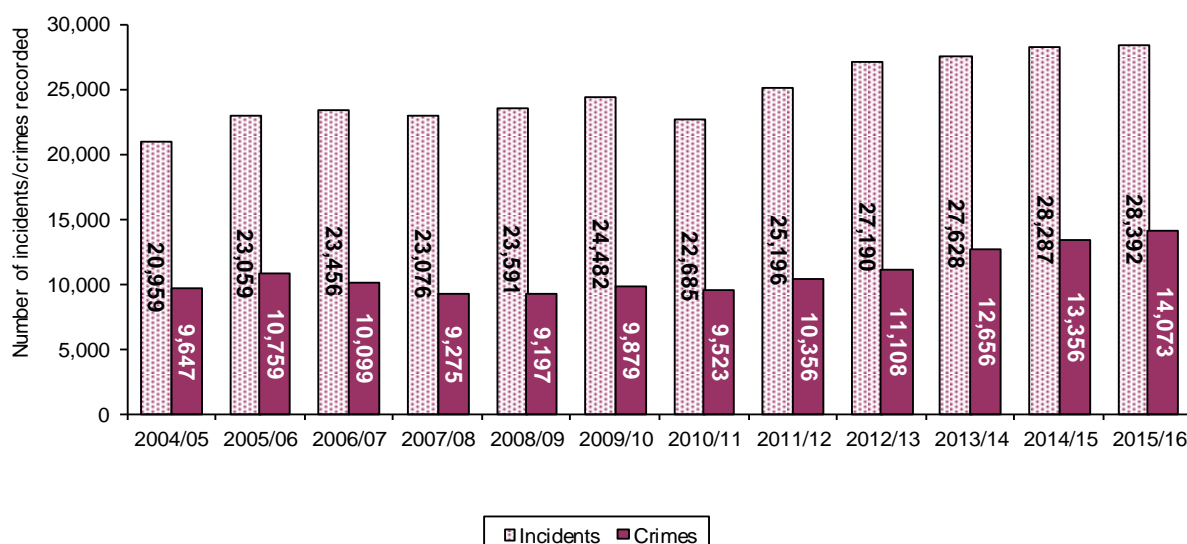
Introduction of Action Fraud within Northern Ireland: From 1st April 2015 Action Fraud has taken responsibility for the central recording of fraud offences previously recorded by PSNI; Action Fraud became responsible for all such reports in England & Wales by 1st April 2014. Action Fraud is the UK's National Reporting Centre for fraud and internet crime reported directly to them from the public and other organisations. As these fraud offences are no longer recorded by PSNI, all crime figures within this bulletin and accompanying spreadsheet exclude fraud and therefore may differ from those previously published.

Change to policing boundaries as a result of implementing the Review of Public Administration: As part of the Review of Public Administration which came into effect on 1st April 2015, PSNI has moved from eight to eleven policing districts, with the new policing model becoming fully operational at the end of September 2015. While previously published figures were based on a best approximation to the new boundaries, figures in this bulletin are based on the fully implemented boundaries.

OVERALL TRENDS IN DOMESTIC ABUSE INCIDENTS AND CRIMES (excluding fraud)

- Domestic abuse incidents have increased year on year since 2004/05, with the exception of two decreases recorded, a 1.6 per cent decrease between 2006/07 and 2007/08 and a 7.3 per cent decrease between 2009/10 and 2010/11. The figure of 28,392 incidents for 2015/16 is the highest level recorded since 2004/05, and shows an increase of 0.4 per cent on the 2014/15 figure of 28,287.
- Domestic abuse crimes have tended to fluctuate since 2004/05, with the largest increase of 11.5 per cent occurring between 2004/05 and 2005/06 and the largest decrease of 8.2 per cent occurring between 2006/07 and 2007/08. The figure for 2015/16 (14,073 crimes) is the highest level recorded since 2004/05, representing a 5.4 per cent increase on the 13,356 crimes recorded in 2014/15.
- There was one murder with a domestic abuse motivation in 2015/16, compared with 6 in 2014/15.

Figure 1 Trends in domestic abuse incidents and crimes 2004/05 to 2015/16



COMPARISON OF 2015/16 WITH 2014/15 (excluding fraud)

- In 2015/16 there were 28,392 incidents recorded where there was a domestic abuse motivation. Of these 28,392 incidents there were 15,923 which did not contain a crime (i.e. non-notifiable offences or incidents where the circumstances did not amount to an offence being committed). The remaining 12,469 incidents contained one or more crimes (amounting to 14,703 recorded crimes in total).

Figure 2 Domestic abuse incidents and crimes

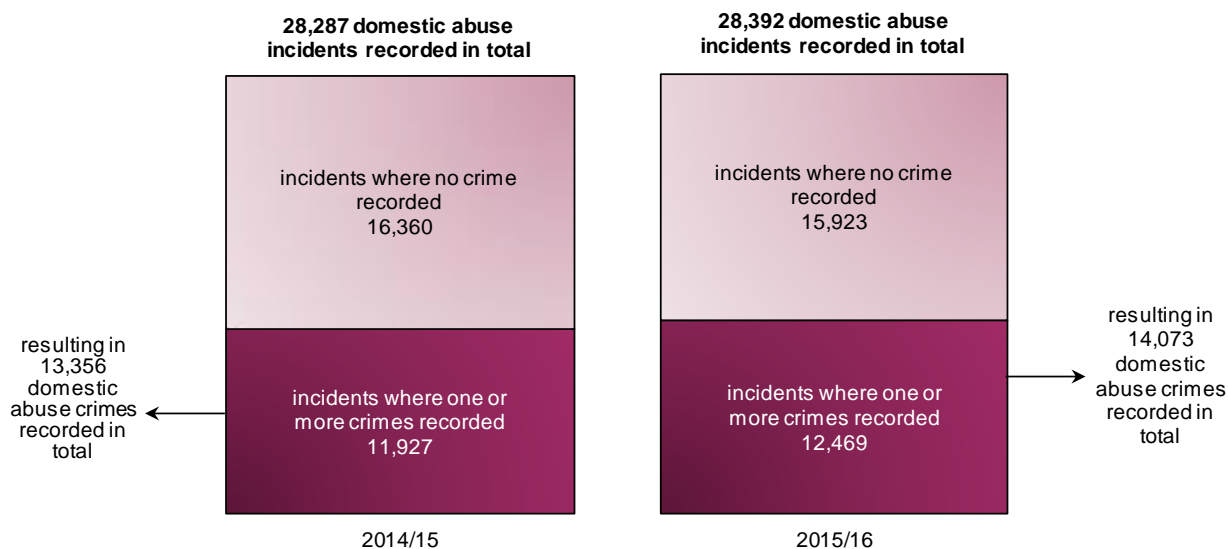


Table 1 Total number of domestic abuse incidents with and without crimes, 2014/15 and 2015/16

Domestic abuse Incidents	numbers		
	2014/15	2015/16	change
Incidents not containing any crime	16,360	15,923	-437
Incidents with one or more crimes recorded	11,927	12,469	542
Total number of incidents	28,287	28,392	105

Table 2 Domestic abuse crimes, 2014/15 and 2015/16

Domestic abuse Crimes	numbers		
	2014/15	2015/16	change
Domestic abuse crimes recorded	13,356	14,073	717

- Domestic abuse incidents recorded in 2015/16 have largely mirrored the levels recorded in 2014/15 but at a higher level for eight of the twelve months. At 28,392, the figure for 2015/16 is 105 incidents higher than the 2014/15 figure of 28,287. The largest monthly increases were seen when comparing the months of October (219 incidents higher than 2014), May (172 incidents higher than 2014) and April (120 incidents higher than 2014). By comparison, the largest monthly decreases occurred in June and July (170 and 171 incidents lower than 2014 respectively).
- There were 14,073 domestic abuse crimes recorded in 2015/16, an increase of 717 crimes on 2014/15. The number of domestic abuse crimes recorded was higher in ten out of the latest 12 months compared with the previous 12 months; in April the levels were identical in both 2014 and 2015. When comparing each month in the current year with the same month in the previous year the largest differences were seen in August 2015 and January 2016 (both 146 incidents higher than the same months the previous year). June 2015 was the only month where the number of domestic abuse crimes was lower, with 41 fewer crimes than June 2014.
- The domestic abuse crime outcomes rate for 2015/16 is 31.4%. While the 2014/15 rate is 31.3% there is no change in percentage points between 2014/15 and 2015/16.

Figure 3 Domestic abuse incidents each month April 2014 to March 2016

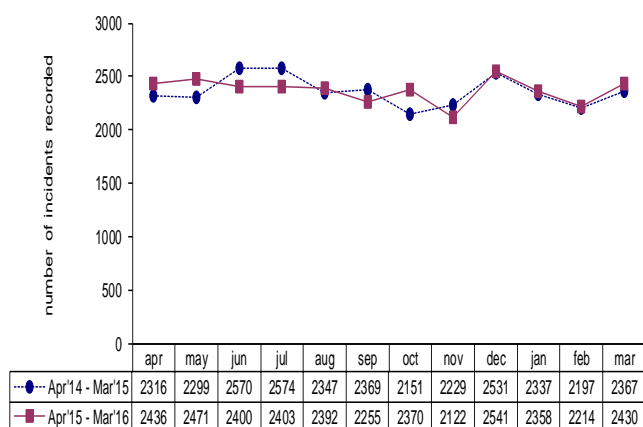


Figure 4 Domestic abuse crimes each month April 2014 to March 2016

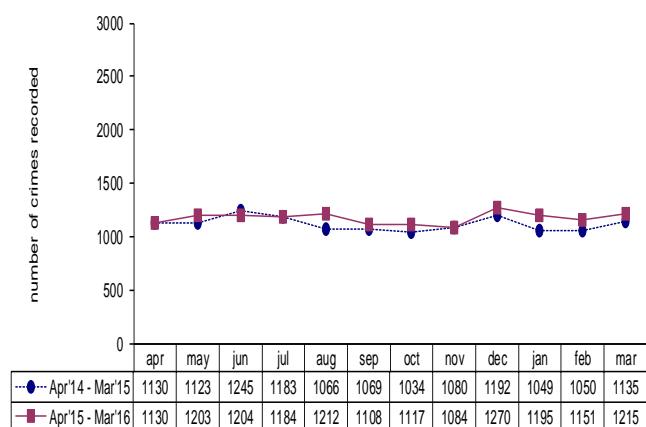


Table 3 Domestic abuse crimes and crime outcomes (rate, %), 2014/15 and 2015/16

Crime Type	Numbers and percentages					
	Crimes Recorded			Crime Outcomes (rate, %)		
	2014/15	2015/16	% change between years	2014/15	2015/16	% point change ¹
Violence against the person offences	9,504	10,083	6.1	26.7	27.0	0.3
<i>Violence with injury (including homicide)</i>	3,801	3,949	3.9	32.9	33.9	1.0
<i>Violence without injury</i>	5,703	6,134	7.6	22.5	22.6	0.0
Theft (including burglary) and criminal damage	2,212	2,299	3.9	41.9	41.7	-0.2
Breach of non-molestation order	972	916	-5.8	59.9	61.7	1.8
All other offences	668	775	16.0	21.0	21.7	0.7
Total crimes (domestic abuse motivation)	13,356	14,073	5.4	31.3	31.4	0.0

¹ The % point change is calculated on unrounded outcome rate figures.

COMPARISON OF POLICING DISTRICTS: 2014/15 AND 2015/16 (excluding fraud)

- Between 2014/15 and 2015/16 domestic abuse incidents increased in five of the eleven policing districts with the remaining six policing districts showing a decrease. The largest increase was in Belfast City (547 incidents) followed by Lisburn & Castlereagh City (153 incidents). The largest decreases occurred in Newry, Mourne & Down (201 incidents) and Fermanagh & Omagh (176 incidents).
- Domestic abuse crimes increased in six of the eleven policing districts, with decreases experienced in a further four districts and one district showing identical levels when comparing 2015/16 with 2014/15. Belfast City experienced the largest increase (430 crimes) followed by Derry City & Strabane with an increase of 147 crimes. Fermanagh & Omagh experienced the largest decrease of 82 crimes.
- Within Belfast City district increases in domestic abuse incidents and crimes were seen in North (354 incidents and 227 crimes), West (157 incidents and 89 crimes), East (31 incidents and 89 crimes) and South (5 incidents and 25 crimes). These represent the local policing teams based in Tennent Street, Woodbourne, Strandtown and Lisburn Road respectively.

Table 4 Domestic abuse incidents, crimes and crime outcomes (rate, %) by policing district, 2014/15 and 2015/16

Policing district	Numbers and percentages								
	Domestic Abuse Incidents			Domestic Abuse Crimes			Domestic Abuse Crime Outcomes (rate, %) ¹		
	2014/15	2015/16	change	2014/15	2015/16	change	2014/15	2015/16	% point change ²
Belfast City: of which	7,066	7,613	547	3,505	3,935	430	27.8	29.4	1.6
<i>East</i> ³	1,770	1,801	31	909	998	89	24.6	28.0	3.3
<i>North</i> ³	2,306	2,660	354	1,084	1,311	227	28.6	29.9	1.3
<i>South</i> ³	1,232	1,237	5	650	675	25	26.2	24.7	-1.4
<i>West</i> ³	1,758	1,915	157	862	951	89	31.6	33.6	2.1
Lisburn & Castlereagh City	1,344	1,497	153	596	707	111	27.7	29.8	2.2
Ards & North Down	2,082	2,068	-14	959	954	-5	30.8	35.1	4.4
Newry, Mourne & Down	2,221	2,020	-201	1,178	1,130	-48	35.4	31.9	-3.5
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	3,155	3,001	-154	1,562	1,546	-16	35.4	32.0	-3.4
Mid Ulster	1,565	1,476	-89	786	810	24	33.6	30.4	-3.2
Fermanagh & Omagh	1,669	1,493	-176	767	685	-82	30.5	32.8	2.3
Derry City & Strabane	2,978	3,012	34	1,306	1,453	147	30.3	35.2	4.8
Causeway Coast & Glens	2,262	2,158	-104	913	1,022	109	27.2	29.1	1.9
Mid & East Antrim	2,079	2,161	82	865	865	0	33.1	31.1	-2.0
Antrim & Newtownabbey	1,866	1,893	27	919	966	47	38.3	31.8	-6.5
Northern Ireland	28,287	28,392	105	13,356	14,073	717	31.3	31.4	0.0

¹ Outcomes presented here include charge/summons, cautions (adult and juvenile), discretionary disposals, penalty notices for disorder, offences taken into consideration and indictable only offences where no action was taken against the offender (died before proceedings or PPS did not prosecute).

² The % point change is calculated on unrounded outcome rate figures.

³ Belfast City district has four local policing teams based in Lisburn Road (South), Tennent Street (North), Strandtown (East) and Woodbourne (West).

Figure 5 Percentage change in the number of domestic abuse incidents by policing district, 2014/15 and 2015/16

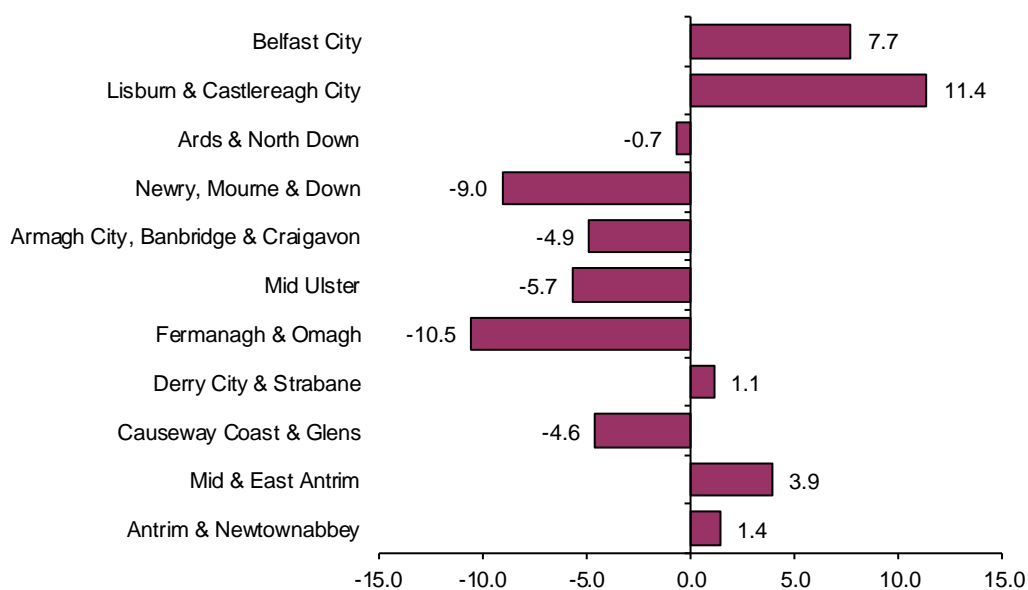
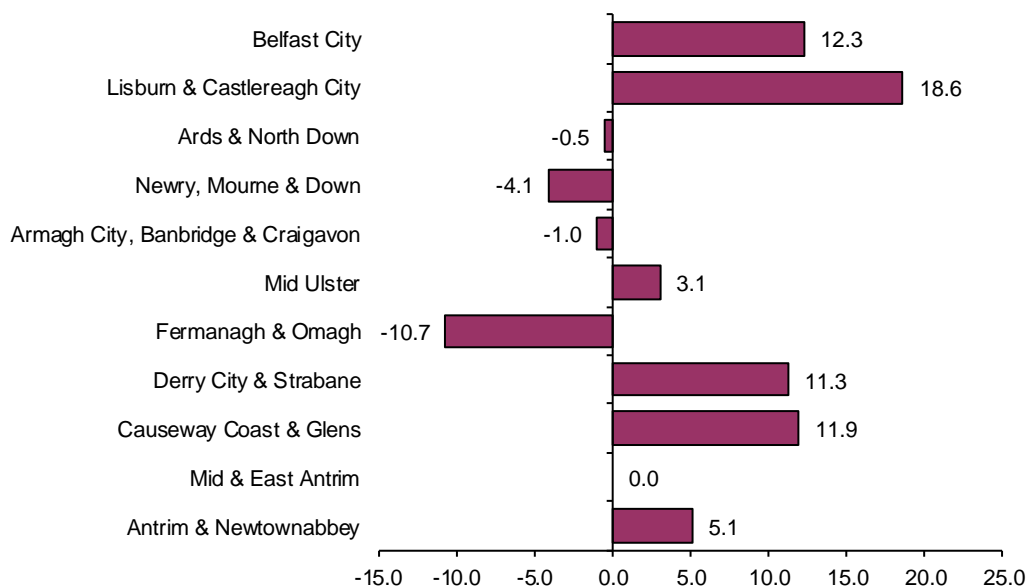


Figure 6 Percentage change in the number of domestic abuse crimes by policing district, 2014/15 and 2015/16



NOTES

Unlike the Northern Ireland Crime Survey (NICS), police recorded crime figures do not include crimes that have not been reported to the police or those that the police decide not to record, but they do cover crimes against those aged under 16, organisations such as businesses, and crimes 'against the state' i.e. with no immediate victim (e.g. possession of drugs).

Like any administrative data, police recorded crime statistics are affected by the rules governing the recording of data, systems in place and operational decisions in respect of the allocation of resources. More proactive policing in a given area could lead to an increase in crimes recorded without any real change in underlying crime trends. These issues need to be taken into account when using these data.

Time periods covered

The figures in this bulletin are presented on a financial year basis and, in this context:

- Quarter 1 refers to the months April, May and June
- Quarter 2 refers to the months July, August and September
- Quarter 3 refers to the months October, November and December
- Quarter 4 refers to the months January, February and March

Data accuracy

Figures covering the full financial year from 1st April to 31st March are presented in their finalised format and are not subject to revision. While crimes included within the police recorded crime statistics for Northern Ireland are individually checked for compliance with the Home Office Counting Rules, the identification of a domestic abuse motivation is derived from a motivation 'tick box' on the system used by PSNI to record crime. The motivation is identified and completed by a police officer or member of police staff for each such reported incident or crime. The correct application of a domestic abuse motivation for all such incidents/crimes is not quality assured by the PSNI's Statistics Branch, but audits and data quality checks are routinely conducted in an attempt to ensure that any under or over-recording is corrected.

Additional data

This bulletin shows a Northern Ireland level summary of domestic abuse incidents and crimes recorded by the police for the financial year 2015/16. Accompanying this bulletin are additional data in the form of [excel summary table](#) and [excel pivot table data](#). The data is also available in open data format.

The pivot tables allow 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 tables are also available in the same spreadsheet files. The pivot tables provide a range of data including domestic abuse incidents, domestic abuse crimes and crime outcomes where there is a domestic abuse motivation (both numbers and rates). Each of these data measures is available:

- at Northern Ireland level as well as for each policing district and policing area;
- for a range of crime types; and
- for a range of time periods (previous and current financial years and each of the last 8 quarters).

Further information

[Trends in Domestic Abuse Incidents and Crimes Recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland 2004/05 to 2014/15](#) provides detailed trend information covering this time period. An updated publication covering trends from 2004/05 to 2015/16 will be available in July/August 2016.

Further details on Police Recorded Crime statistics, including those with a domestic abuse motivation, are available in the [User Guide to Police Recorded Crime Statistics in Northern Ireland](#). This is a reference guide with explanatory notes regarding the issues and classifications which are key to the production and presentation of police recorded crime statistics. The [definition of domestic abuse](#) upon which these statistics are based is also available in this user guide and on the PSNI Internet site.

Figures are available for a range of additional geographic areas through the [Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information System \(NINIS\)](#). These figures are updated on an annual basis.

Copies of other PSNI publications are available from the PSNI Internet site:

<https://www.psni.police.uk/inside-psni/Statistics/>

For further information about the police recorded crime statistics for Northern Ireland, or to contact the PSNI Crime and Incident Statistician please:

Email: statistics@psni.police.uk;

Write to: Statistics Branch, Lisnasharragh, 42 Montgomery Road, Belfast, BT6 9LD; or

Telephone: 028 9065 0222 ext 24135