

Police Service of Northern Ireland

# Domestic Abuse Incidents and Crimes Recorded by the Police In Northern Ireland 2010/11

1<sup>st</sup> April 2010 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011

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# Introduction

The Police Service of Northern Ireland publishes figures on the levels and trends of crime in Northern Ireland, based on police recorded crime data. PSNI also publishes data on those incidents and crimes which have a domestic abuse motivation.

The Northern Ireland Regional Steering Group on Domestic Violence has defined domestic abuse 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', where:

- **Incident** means an incident anywhere and not confined to the home of one of the partners/family members;
- **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; and
- **Family members** include mother, father, son, daughter, brother, sister, grandparents, whether directly or indirectly related, in-laws or stepfamily.

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 police recorded crime statistics. Further details of the background and recording practice in relation to police recorded crime statistics are available in the bulletin 'Police Recorded Crime in Northern Ireland 2010/11'.

Domestic abuse statistics have been collated by PSNI in their current format since 2004/05. They are used widely within PSNI as management information and to monitor performance on domestic abuse related targets against the Policing Plan. The figures are also used by government departments and other voluntary and statutory agencies to inform debate and policy development regarding domestic abuse in Northern Ireland. Furthermore it is widely accepted that there is under-reporting of domestic abuse incidents to the police.

While crimes included within the police recorded crime statistics for Northern Ireland are individually checked for compliance with the Home Office Counting Rules by the PSNI's Central Statistics Unit, 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 Central Statistics Unit, but quarterly audits and data quality checks are conducted in an attempt to ensure that any under or over-recording is corrected.

Domestic abuse incidents and crimes in Northern Ireland are currently published as an annual bulletin providing finalised figures for the latest financial year, along with trends and commentary. Quarterly updates providing a summary of the latest domestic abuse incidents and crimes are published during the year, these statistics being provisional and subject to change.

The publication date for the annual bulletin is made available via the PSNI Internet site, along with the date of each quarterly update:

[http://www.psni.police.uk/index/updates/updates\\_statistics.htm](http://www.psni.police.uk/index/updates/updates_statistics.htm).

Copies of 'Domestic Abuse Incidents and Crimes Recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland 2010/11' are available from the PSNI Internet site:

[http://www.psni.police.uk/index/updates/updates\\_statistics.htm](http://www.psni.police.uk/index/updates/updates_statistics.htm). This link also provides access to the latest quarterly update and to annual reports back to 2004/05.

We welcome comment and feedback on these statistics. If you would like to forward your views, receive notification of new publications or be kept informed of developments relating to PSNI statistics, please email your contact details using the email address provided below.

For further information about the domestic abuse incidents and crimes recorded by the police in Northern Ireland, or to contact the PSNI Responsible Statistician please:

Email: [statistics@psni.police.uk](mailto:statistics@psni.police.uk);

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

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

## Changes to crime classifications being implemented from 2011/12

During 2010/11 an exercise was conducted to more closely align the crime recording classifications used in PSNI publications with those used by the Home Office in their publications on police recorded crime figures for England and Wales. The aim of this exercise was to improve comparability of police recorded crime figures in Northern Ireland with those for England and Wales, while taking into account legislative differences between the two jurisdictions. Details of these classification changes and their implications are available on the PSNI Internet Site:

[http://www.psni.police.uk/psni\\_paper\\_on\\_crime\\_recording\\_realignment\\_final\\_web\\_version.pdf](http://www.psni.police.uk/psni_paper_on_crime_recording_realignment_final_web_version.pdf)

A bulletin containing a data series on domestic abuse incidents and crimes from 2004/05 through to 2010/11 will be published in June 2011. This bulletin will include tables providing a breakdown of domestic abuse by crime classification, based on this realigned classification structure. Statistical disclosure control issues relating to the provision of domestic abuse crimes by crime classification and policing districts/areas were identified before the publication of the 2009/10 bulletin. As a result, tables showing this level of detail were withdrawn from the 2009/10 bulletin. The realigned crime classification structure allows categories to be grouped together in such a way as to allow their publication and retain a breakdown to policing district and area. A more detailed breakdown of offences will be made available at the Northern Ireland level.

Previously published figures for the financial years 2004/05 to 2009/10 will remain available in the Domestic Abuse and Hate Motivation Archive on the PSNI Internet site:

[http://www.psni.police.uk/index/updates/updates\\_statistics/updates\\_domestic\\_and\\_hate\\_motivation\\_statistics/updates\\_domestic\\_and\\_hate\\_motivation\\_statistics\\_archive.htm](http://www.psni.police.uk/index/updates/updates_statistics/updates_domestic_and_hate_motivation_statistics/updates_domestic_and_hate_motivation_statistics_archive.htm).

All domestic abuse incident and crime figures relating to 2011/12 onwards will be published using the realigned crime classification.

## Conventions used in figures and tables

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.

'-' indicates that for offences recorded a percentage change is not reported because the base number of offences is less than 50, and that for offences detected a detection rate cannot be calculated as there were no offences recorded.

# Key Results

## Incidents

- Between 2009/10 and 2010/11 the number of domestic abuse incidents decreased by 1,797 (-7.3%), making 2010/11 the second lowest level of domestic abuse incidents recorded since the data series started in 2004/05. The lowest number of domestic abuse incidents recorded was in 2004/05 (20,959) while 2009/10 showed the highest level recorded, at 24,482.

## Recorded Crimes

- There were 9,546 crimes with a domestic abuse motivation recorded in 2010/11, which is a fall of 357 (-3.6%) on 2009/10. The number of crimes with a domestic abuse motivation has ranged from a low of 8,508 in 2004/05 to a high of 10,768 in 2005/06.
- There were 7 murders with a domestic motivation recorded during 2010/11, the same as the number recorded in 2009/10.

## Detection Rates

- The overall detection rate for crimes with a domestic abuse motivation in 2010/11 was 46.6%, 3.3 percentage points higher than in 2009/10.
- As there have been a number of changes in the recording of detections since 2004/05, only the sanction detection rate is comparable across the whole of this data series. The sanction detection rate for domestic abuse crimes has increased year on year from a rate of 14.4% in 2004/05 to the current rate of 46.6% in 2010/11.

**Table 1: Domestic Abuse Motivation: Incidents, Crimes and Detections Summary 2009/10 and 2010/11**

	2009/10	2010/11	change
<b>Total number of incidents</b>	24,482	22,685	-1,797
<b>Total number of crimes</b>	9,903	9,546	-357
<b>Total number of crimes detected</b>	4,288	4,444	156
<b>Detection rate (%)<sup>1</sup></b>	43.3	46.6	3.3

<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.

**Table 2: Domestic Abuse Motivation: Incidents, Recorded Crimes and Detections by District<sup>1</sup> 2009/10 and 2010/11**

	Total number of incidents				Total offences recorded <sup>2</sup>				Total offences detected		Detection rate (%)		
	2009/10	2010/11	change	% change	2009/10	2010/11	change	% change	2009/10	2010/11	2009/10	2010/11	% point change <sup>3</sup>
A District	3,277	3,167	-110	-3.4	1,186	1,266	80	6.7	529	603	44.6	47.6	3.0
B District	2,152	2,177	25	1.2	806	821	15	1.9	373	381	46.3	46.4	0.1
C District	2,611	2,325	-286	-11.0	1,187	1,168	-19	-1.6	516	563	43.5	48.2	4.7
D District	3,837	3,695	-142	-3.7	1,610	1,540	-70	-4.3	733	731	45.5	47.5	1.9
E District	3,597	3,140	-457	-12.7	1,554	1,451	-103	-6.6	614	591	39.5	40.7	1.2
F District	2,217	1,917	-300	-13.5	906	858	-48	-5.3	408	443	45.0	51.6	6.6
G District	4,137	3,735	-402	-9.7	1,521	1,500	-21	-1.4	660	724	43.4	48.3	4.9
H District	2,654	2,529	-125	-4.7	1,133	942	-191	-16.9	455	408	40.2	43.3	3.2
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>24,482</b>	<b>22,685</b>	<b>-1,797</b>	<b>-7.3</b>	<b>9,903</b>	<b>9,546</b>	<b>-357</b>	<b>-3.6</b>	<b>4,288</b>	<b>4,444</b>	<b>43.3</b>	<b>46.6</b>	<b>3.3</b>

<sup>1</sup> A map showing the Areas covered by each District is provided on page 10.

<sup>2</sup> The domestic abuse offences recorded, cleared and clearance rate figures shown above 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 3: Recorded Crimes with a Domestic Abuse Motivation: Gender and age of victims<sup>1</sup> by District<sup>2</sup> 2009/10 and 2010/11**

	Females 18 and over		Males 18 and over		Children under 18		Gender / age unknown <sup>3</sup>		Total Offences <sup>4</sup>	
	2009/10	2010/11	2009/10	2010/11	2009/10	2010/11	2009/10	2010/11	2009/10	2010/11
A District	741	802	185	235	106	114	154	115	1,186	1,266
B District	477	522	152	149	101	72	76	78	806	821
C District	700	719	208	201	114	133	165	115	1,187	1,168
D District	944	895	320	295	145	168	201	182	1,610	1,540
E District	884	862	321	306	152	146	197	137	1,554	1,451
F District	547	563	194	167	93	69	72	59	906	858
G District	875	936	295	316	151	104	200	144	1,521	1,500
H District	643	568	227	164	113	91	150	119	1,133	942
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>5,811</b>	<b>5,867</b>	<b>1,902</b>	<b>1,833</b>	<b>975</b>	<b>897</b>	<b>1,215</b>	<b>949</b>	<b>9,903</b>	<b>9,546</b>

<sup>1</sup> In previous publications victim age was broken down by under 17 and 17+. This has been amended to under 18 and 18+, to be in line with PSNI policy and the age defined in the ACPO definition of domestic abuse.

<sup>2</sup> A map showing the Areas covered by each District is provided on page 10.

<sup>3</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>4</sup> The domestic abuse offence figures shown above do not include assault on police

**Table 4: Domestic Abuse Motivation: Incidents, Recorded Crimes and Detections by Area 2009/10 and 2010/11**

	Total number of incidents				Total offences recorded <sup>1</sup>				Total offences detected		Detection rate (%)		
	2009/10	2010/11	change	% change	2009/10	2010/11	change	% change	2009/10	2010/11	2009/10	2010/11	% point change <sup>2</sup>
Antrim	732	635	-97	-13.3	352	293	-59	-16.8	153	120	43.5	41.0	-2.5
Ards	741	661	-80	-10.8	330	330	0	0.0	142	157	43.0	47.6	4.5
East Belfast	1,363	1,354	-9	-0.7	449	473	24	5.3	212	231	47.2	48.8	1.6
North Belfast	1,928	1,844	-84	-4.4	713	744	31	4.3	322	370	45.2	49.7	4.6
South Belfast	789	823	34	4.3	357	348	-9	-2.5	161	150	45.1	43.1	-2.0
West Belfast	1,349	1,323	-26	-1.9	473	522	49	10.4	207	233	43.8	44.6	0.9
Carrickfergus	463	470	7	1.5	190	190	0	0.0	90	92	47.4	48.4	1.1
Castlereagh	494	480	-14	-2.8	199	213	14	7.0	98	106	49.2	49.8	0.5
Down	702	540	-162	-23.1	331	295	-36	-10.9	143	118	43.2	40.0	-3.2
Lisburn	1,765	1,686	-79	-4.5	662	680	18	2.7	291	339	44.0	49.9	5.9
Newtownabbey	877	904	27	3.1	406	377	-29	-7.1	199	180	49.0	47.7	-1.3
North Down	674	644	-30	-4.5	327	330	3	0.9	133	182	40.7	55.2	14.5
<b>Urban Region</b>	<b>11,877</b>	<b>11,364</b>	<b>-513</b>	<b>-4.3</b>	<b>4,789</b>	<b>4,795</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>2,151</b>	<b>2,278</b>	<b>44.9</b>	<b>47.5</b>	<b>2.6</b>
Armagh	658	514	-144	-21.9	245	221	-24	-9.8	95	90	38.8	40.7	1.9
Ballymena	827	818	-9	-1.1	399	347	-52	-13.0	165	142	41.4	40.9	-0.4
Ballymoney	335	270	-65	-19.4	136	93	-43	-31.6	62	33	45.6	35.5	-10.1
Banbridge	503	402	-101	-20.1	160	165	5	3.1	69	66	43.1	40.0	-3.1
Coleraine	900	922	22	2.4	348	299	-49	-14.1	118	142	33.9	47.5	13.6
Cookstown	461	418	-43	-9.3	186	198	12	6.5	95	110	51.1	55.6	4.5
Craigavon	1,306	1,174	-132	-10.1	620	575	-45	-7.3	211	236	34.0	41.0	7.0
Dungannon & South Tyrone	450	438	-12	-2.7	237	204	-33	-13.9	103	101	43.5	49.5	6.0
Fermanagh	551	550	-1	-0.2	252	257	5	2.0	110	117	43.7	45.5	1.9
Foyle	2,429	2,282	-147	-6.1	949	866	-83	-8.7	410	403	43.2	46.5	3.3
Larne	408	373	-35	-8.6	167	151	-16	-9.6	83	73	49.7	48.3	-1.4
Limavady	535	534	-1	-0.2	269	284	15	5.6	116	146	43.1	51.4	8.3
Magherafelt	431	353	-78	-18.1	118	131	13	11.0	59	63	50.0	48.1	-1.9
Moyle	184	146	-38	-20.7	83	52	-31	-37.3	27	18	32.5	34.6	2.1
Newry & Mourne	1,130	1,050	-80	-7.1	529	490	-39	-7.4	239	199	45.2	40.6	-4.6
Omagh	755	511	-244	-32.3	231	199	-32	-13.9	100	115	43.3	57.8	14.5
Strabane	742	566	-176	-23.7	185	219	34	18.4	75	112	40.5	51.1	10.6
<b>Rural Region</b>	<b>12,605</b>	<b>11,321</b>	<b>-1,284</b>	<b>-10.2</b>	<b>5,114</b>	<b>4,751</b>	<b>-363</b>	<b>-7.1</b>	<b>2,137</b>	<b>2,166</b>	<b>41.8</b>	<b>45.6</b>	<b>3.8</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>24,482</b>	<b>22,685</b>	<b>-1,797</b>	<b>-7.3</b>	<b>9,903</b>	<b>9,546</b>	<b>-357</b>	<b>-3.6</b>	<b>4,288</b>	<b>4,444</b>	<b>43.3</b>	<b>46.6</b>	<b>3.3</b>

<sup>1</sup> The domestic abuse offences recorded, cleared and clearance rate figures shown above 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 5: Recorded Crimes with a Domestic Abuse Motivation: Gender and age of victims<sup>1</sup> by Area 2009/10 and 2010/11**

	Females 18 and over		Males 18 and over		Children under 18		Gender / age unknown <sup>2</sup>		Total Offences <sup>3</sup>	
	2009/10	2010/11	2009/10	2010/11	2009/10	2010/11	2009/10	2010/11	2009/10	2010/11
Antrim	199	176	67	61	33	27	53	29	352	293
Ards	189	214	64	58	37	38	40	20	330	330
East Belfast	246	279	87	92	68	49	48	53	449	473
North Belfast	442	483	117	129	76	62	78	70	713	744
South Belfast	231	243	65	57	33	23	28	25	357	348
West Belfast	299	319	68	106	30	52	76	45	473	522
Carrickfergus	114	114	41	28	15	27	20	21	190	190
Castlereagh	118	131	32	37	20	26	29	19	199	213
Down	205	172	55	54	23	31	48	38	331	295
Lisburn	366	391	133	117	69	67	94	105	662	680
Newtownabbey	265	214	79	89	28	47	34	27	406	377
North Down	188	202	57	52	34	38	48	38	327	330
<b>Urban Region</b>	<b>2,862</b>	<b>2,938</b>	<b>865</b>	<b>880</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>596</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>4,789</b>	<b>4,795</b>
Armagh	120	108	49	51	32	31	44	31	245	221
Ballymena	229	199	74	53	43	35	53	60	399	347
Ballymoney	67	64	28	20	17	6	24	3	136	93
Banbridge	95	107	40	40	8	12	17	6	160	165
Coleraine	195	198	84	50	29	23	40	28	348	299
Cookstown	104	127	38	32	23	17	21	22	186	198
Craigavon	365	362	124	109	69	62	62	42	620	575
Dungannon & South Tyrone	161	146	39	32	23	19	14	7	237	204
Fermanagh	158	171	56	56	22	19	16	11	252	257
Foyle	549	557	180	170	84	54	136	85	949	866
Larne	96	77	30	29	16	21	25	24	167	151
Limavady	148	179	55	66	30	20	36	19	269	284
Magherafelt	72	73	26	31	11	12	9	15	118	131
Moyle	56	30	11	12	8	6	8	4	83	52
Newry & Mourne	304	285	108	106	43	41	74	58	529	490
Omagh	124	119	61	47	25	14	21	19	231	199
Strabane	106	127	34	49	26	18	19	25	185	219
<b>Rural Region</b>	<b>2,949</b>	<b>2,929</b>	<b>1,037</b>	<b>953</b>	<b>509</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>619</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>5,114</b>	<b>4,751</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>5,811</b>	<b>5,867</b>	<b>1,902</b>	<b>1,833</b>	<b>975</b>	<b>897</b>	<b>1,215</b>	<b>949</b>	<b>9,903</b>	<b>9,546</b>

<sup>1</sup> In previous publications victim age was broken down by under 17 and 17+. This has been amended to under 18 and 18+, to be in line with PSNI policy and the age defined in the ACPO definition of domestic abuse.

<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.

# Police Recording of Crime - Definitions

## Recorded Crime

Police recorded crime statistics (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.

