

Police Service of Northern Ireland

Domestic Abuse Incidents and Crimes Recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland: Quarterly Update to 31 March 2012

(Providing final figures for 1st April 2011 to 31st March 2012)

Published 10 May 2012

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This quarterly bulletin presents finalised domestic abuse incidents and crimes statistics recorded by the police for the financial year 2011/12, which runs from 1st April 2011 to 31st March 2012.

A range of more detailed tables are available in the [spreadsheet](#) which accompanies 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 2011/12 will be available in early July 2012. The next quarterly update covering the latest 12 months to 30th June 2012 will be published on 30th August 2012.

MAIN POINTS

- The number of incidents with a domestic abuse motivation recorded in 2011/12 is at the highest level since the data series was first compiled in 2004/05. The latest figure of 25,196 is 11.1 per cent higher than 2010/11 and is 20.2 per cent higher than the level of 20,959 recorded in 2004/05. Domestic abuse incidents were higher in each quarter of 2011/12 when compared with the same quarters in 2010/11, although the difference was least evident when comparing quarter 1 of each year.
- Domestic abuse crimes were at their highest level in 2005/06 (10,768 crimes recorded). The level of 10,387 recorded in 2011/12 is the second highest level recorded since 2004/05. While domestic abuse crimes were slightly lower in quarter 1 2011 when compared with quarter 1 of 2010, the crime levels were higher in each subsequent quarter.
- The domestic abuse sanction detection rate rose year on year from 2004/05 to a peak of 46.5% in 2010/11. The rate has since fallen and now stands at 41.1% in 2011/12.
- There were 3 murders with a domestic abuse motivation in 2011/12. Along with 2006/07 this is the lowest number recorded since these figures were first compiled in 2004/05.

Figure 1 Domestic abuse incidents and crimes: quarterly totals 2010/11 and 2011/12

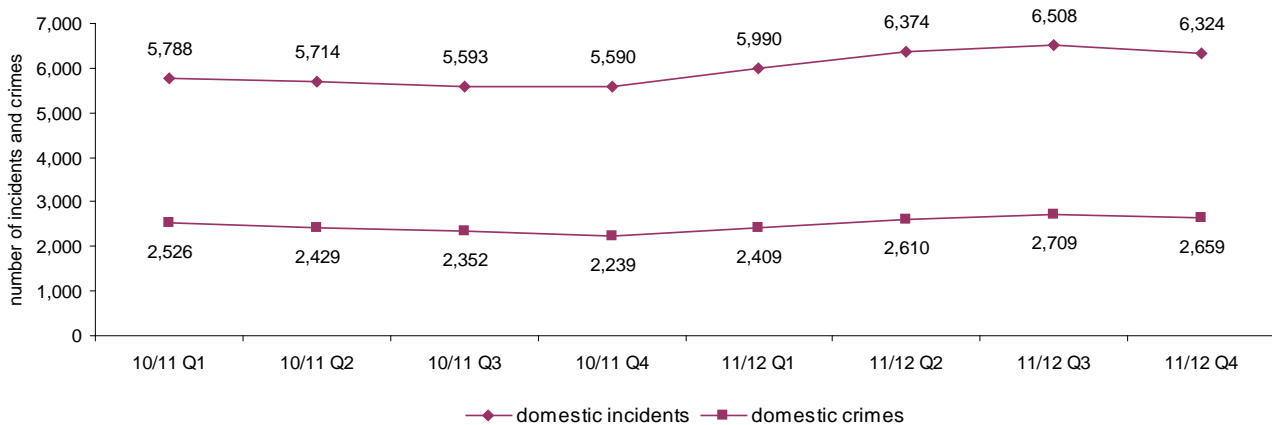


Table 1 Incidents with a domestic abuse motivation recorded, 2011/12 compared with 2010/11

	Numbers and percentages		
	2010/11	2011/12	% change between years
Domestic abuse incidents	22,685	25,196	11.1

Table 2 Crimes and sanction detection rates with a domestic abuse motivation recorded, 2011/12 compared with 2010/11

Offence group	Numbers and percentages					
	Offences Recorded			Sanction Detection Rate (%)		
	2010/11	2011/12	% change between years	2010/11	2011/12	% point change
Violence against the person offences	6,700	7,144	6.6	42.4	37.5	-4.9
<i>Violence against the person – with injury</i>	3,386	3,539	4.5	46.8	42.9	-3.9
<i>Violence against the person – without injury</i>	3,314	3,605	8.8	37.9	32.2	-5.7
Property crime	1,716	1,996	16.3	50.9	45.3	-5.6
Breach of non-molestation order	879	946	7.6	75.2	63.4	-11.8
All other offences	251	301	19.9	27.1	30.6	3.5
Total recorded crime (domestic abuse motivation) – all offences	9,546	10,387	8.8	46.5	41.1	-5.4

Table 3 Recorded crime and sanction detection rates for crimes with a domestic abuse motivation by policing district and policing area, 2010/11 and 2011/12

Policing district/area	Numbers and percentages								
	Incidents ¹			Recorded crime ¹			Sanction detection rate (%) ²		
	2010/11	2011/12	change 2010/11 to 2011/12	2010/11	2011/12	change 2010/11 to 2011/12	2010/11	2011/12	% point change 2010/11 to 2011/12 ³
North Belfast	1,844	1,940	96	744	693	-51	49.7	48.6	-1.1
West Belfast	1,323	1,264	-59	522	536	14	44.6	42.2	-2.5
A District	3,167	3,204	37	1,266	1,229	-37	47.6	45.8	-1.8
East Belfast	1,354	1,527	173	473	552	79	48.8	34.1	-14.8
South Belfast	823	1,086	263	348	433	85	43.1	33.9	-9.2
B District	2,177	2,613	436	821	985	164	46.4	34.0	-12.4
Ards	661	737	76	330	337	7	47.6	32.0	-15.5
Castlereagh	480	429	-51	213	164	-49	49.3	51.2	1.9
Down	540	619	79	295	298	3	40.0	40.9	0.9
North Down	644	726	82	330	326	-4	55.2	39.0	-16.2
C District	2,325	2,511	186	1,168	1,125	-43	48.1	39.2	-8.9
Antrim	635	854	219	293	359	66	40.6	40.4	-0.2
Carrickfergus	470	539	69	190	235	45	48.4	43.4	-5.0
Lisburn	1,686	1,749	63	680	593	-87	49.9	33.6	-16.3
Newtownabbey	904	1,046	142	377	433	56	47.7	37.9	-9.9
D District	3,695	4,188	493	1,540	1,620	80	47.4	37.7	-9.7
Armagh	514	595	81	221	253	32	40.7	38.3	-2.4
Banbridge	402	567	165	165	222	57	40.0	40.5	0.5
Craigavon	1,174	1,399	225	575	621	46	41.0	39.9	-1.1
Newry & Mourne	1,050	1,136	86	490	538	48	40.6	43.9	3.3
E District	3,140	3,697	557	1,451	1,634	183	40.7	41.1	0.3
Cookstown	418	490	72	198	216	18	55.6	42.6	-13.0
Dungannon & South Tyrone	438	656	218	204	282	78	49.5	45.4	-4.1
Fermanagh	550	631	81	257	296	39	45.5	42.6	-3.0
Omagh	511	631	120	199	223	24	57.8	47.1	-10.7
F District	1,917	2,408	491	858	1,017	159	51.6	44.3	-7.3
Foyle	2,282	2,224	-58	866	941	75	46.4	45.3	-1.1
Limavady	534	467	-67	284	232	-52	51.4	47.8	-3.6
Magherafelt	353	391	38	131	172	41	48.1	44.2	-3.9
Strabane	566	636	70	219	253	34	51.1	37.9	-13.2
G District	3,735	3,718	-17	1,500	1,598	98	48.2	44.4	-3.8
Ballymena	818	932	114	347	435	88	40.9	42.5	1.6
Ballymoney	270	345	75	93	152	59	35.5	34.9	-0.6
Coleraine	922	978	56	299	363	64	47.5	44.9	-2.6
Larne	373	426	53	151	159	8	48.3	37.1	-11.2
Moyle	146	176	30	52	70	18	34.6	48.6	14.0
H District	2,529	2,857	328	942	1,179	237	43.3	41.9	-1.4
Northern Ireland	22,685	25,196	2,511	9,546	10,387	841	46.5	41.1	-5.4

1. Incidents and crimes are geographically recorded by the police based on the location in which the incident occurred.

2. The detection figures are based on sanction detections only. The reason for focusing on sanction detections instead of the overall detection rate is that there have been a number of changes to the rules governing what can be counted as a detection since 1998/99. However sanction detections remained unaffected by these changes and so provide the most comparable data series. An explanation of the changes to the recording of detections, along with details on what constitutes a sanction detection, can be found in the User Guide to Police Recorded Crime Statistics in Northern Ireland.

Offences detected in any particular year may have been initially recorded in an earlier year and for this reason some percentages may exceed 100. The sanction detection rate is the number of crimes that are cleared up by a sanction detection expressed as a percentage of the total number of recorded offences.

3. Percentage point change is based on unrounded figures.

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

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 Statistics Branch, 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 quarterly audits and data quality checks are 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 2011/12 financial year. Additional figures to accompany this bulletin are published in a spreadsheet: http://www.psni.police.uk/quarterly_domestic_abuse_update_apr-mar_11_12.xls.

This spreadsheet contains a pivot table providing statistics on domestic abuse incidents, domestic abuse crimes, sanction detections (numbers) and sanction detection 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 (latest and previous financial years and each of the last 8 quarters).

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

Annual figures on domestic abuse incidents and crimes from 2004/05 to 2010/11 are available in the publication Trends in Domestic Abuse Incidents and Crimes Recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland 1998/99 to 2010/11, available at:

http://www.psni.police.uk/domestic_abuse_incidents_and_crimes_in_northern_ireland_2004-05_to_2010-11.pdf

An updated publication covering trends from 2004/05 to 2011/12 will be available in early July 2012.

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.

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

http://www.psni.police.uk/index/updates/updates_statistics.htm

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