

Police Service of Northern Ireland

Domestic Abuse Incidents and Crimes Recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland: Quarterly Update to 31 March 2014

(Providing final figures for 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014)

Published 8 May 2014

Domestic abuse incidents and crimes recorded by the police in Northern Ireland: Quarterly update to 31 March 2014

Published 8 May 2014

This quarterly bulletin presents the most recent statistics relating to domestic abuse incidents and crimes recorded by the police for the financial year 2013/14, which runs from 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014.

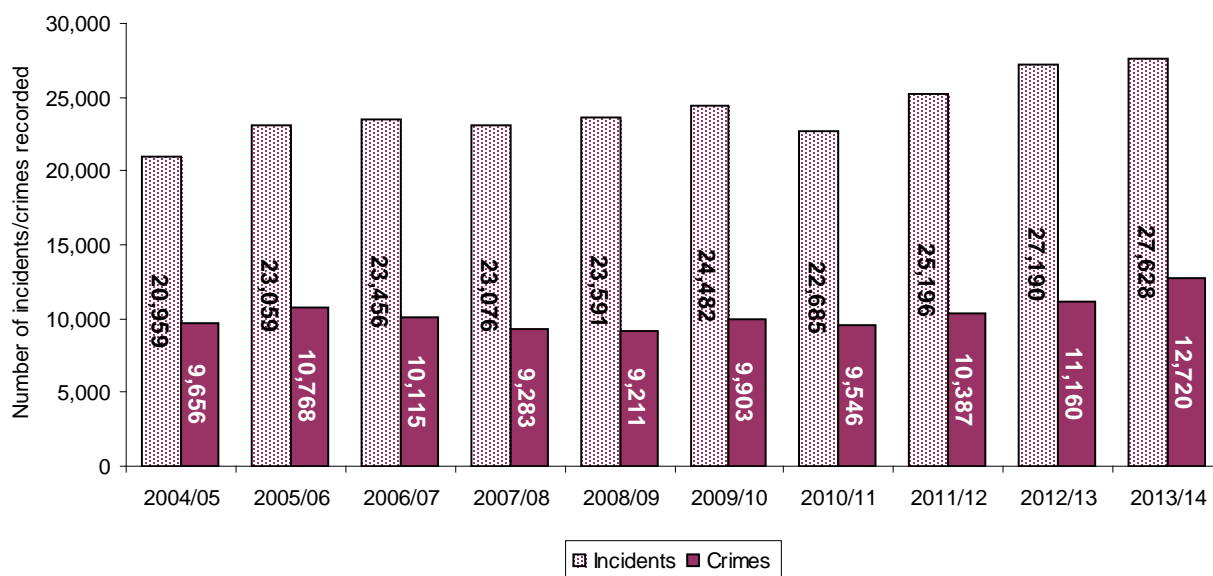
A range of more detailed tables are available in the [spreadsheet](#) which accompanies this bulletin. Further information on the contents of these tables can be found in the NOTES page at the end of the bulletin.

A more comprehensive publication covering trends from 2004/05 to 2013/14 will be available in early July 2014. The next quarterly update covering the latest 12 months to 30 June 2014 will be published on 28 August 2014.

OVERALL TRENDS IN DOMESTIC ABUSE INCIDENTS AND CRIMES

- 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 27,628 incidents for 2013/14 is the highest level recorded since 2004/05, and shows a slight increase of 1.6 per cent on the 2012/13 figure of 27,190.
- Domestic abuse crimes have tended to fluctuate since 2004/05. The 2013/14 figure of 12,720 crimes is the highest level recorded since 2004/05 and represents a 14.0 per cent increase on the 11,160 crimes recorded in 2012/13. The second largest increase of 11.5 per cent occurred between 2004/05 and 2005/06 with the largest decrease of 8.2 per cent occurring between 2006/07 and 2007/08.
- There were 7 murders with a domestic abuse motivation in 2013/14, compared with 5 in 2012/13.

Figure 1 Trends in domestic abuse incidents and crimes



COMPARISON OF 2013/14 WITH 2012/13

- Domestic abuse incidents recorded in 2013/14 have largely mirrored the levels recorded in the comparable 12 months of 2012/13, but at a higher level for eight out of the twelve months. At 27,628, the figure for 2013/14 is 438 incidents higher than the 2012/13 figure of 27,190.
- There were 12,720 domestic abuse crimes recorded in 2013/14 (an increase of 1,560 crimes on the 2012/13 figure of 11,160). The number of domestic abuse crimes recorded in 2013/14 has been higher for all but one of the comparable 12 months in 2012/13. The higher levels recorded are particularly noticeable between April and July 2013, and again between November and January 2013. The largest monthly change (an increase of 276 crimes) can be seen when comparing March 2013 (955 crimes) with March 2014 (1,231 crimes).
- The domestic abuse crime outcome rate for 2013/14 is 31.7 per cent, 5.0 percentage points lower than the rate for 2012/13 (36.7 per cent).

Figure 2 Domestic abuse incidents each month April 2012 to March 2014

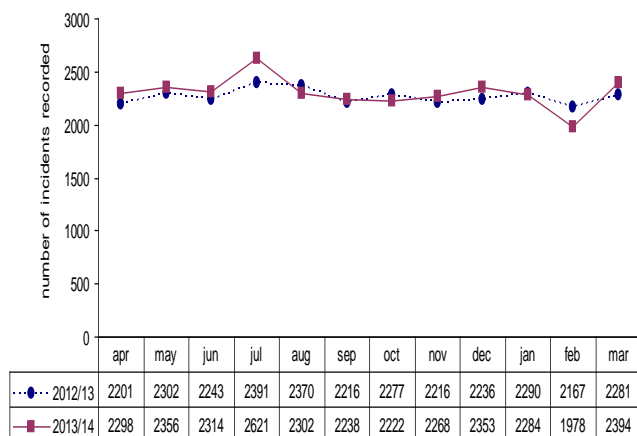


Figure 3 Domestic abuse crimes each month April 2012 to March 2014

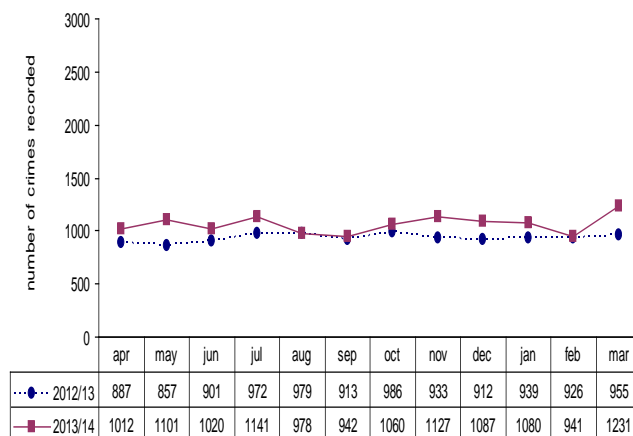


Table 1 Domestic abuse incidents, crimes and crime outcome rates, 2012/13 and 2013/14

Crime Type	Numbers and percentages					
	Crimes recorded			Crime outcomes (rate %)		
	2012/13	2013/14	% change between years	2012/13	2013/14	% point change
Violence against the person offences	7,722	8,965	16.1	32.1	26.7	-5.4
<i>Violence with injury (including homicide)</i>	3,601	3,699	2.7	39.2	33.9	-5.3
<i>Violence without injury</i>	4,121	5,266	27.8	25.9	21.6	-4.3
Theft (including burglary) and criminal damage	1,935	2,117	9.4	48.1	41.8	-6.3
Breach of non-molestation order	911	986	8.2	62.5	58.8	-3.6
All other offences	592	652	10.1	20.4	27.3	6.9
Total crimes (domestic abuse motivation)	11,160	12,720	14.0	36.7	31.7	-5.0
	Incidents recorded 2012/13	Incidents recorded 2013/14		% change		
Total incidents (domestic abuse motivation)	27,190	27,628		1.6		

COMPARISON OF POLICING DISTRICTS AND AREAS

- Domestic abuse incidents decreased in A District (-10.4 per cent), F District (-7.2 per cent), and D District (-3.5 per cent) when comparing 2013/14 with 2012/13. B, C, E, G and H policing districts have shown increases, ranging from 1.6 per cent in B District to 17.7 per cent in C District. At policing area level the change between 2012/13 and 2013/14 has ranged from a fall of 18.1 per cent in Cookstown policing area to a rise of 25.5 per cent in Larne policing area.
- Domestic abuse crimes decreased in F District (-2.8 per cent) when comparing 2013/14 with 2012/13. All other policing districts have shown increases, ranging from 7.8 per cent in A District to 26.2 per cent in C District. At policing area level the change between 2012/13 and 2013/14 has ranged from a fall of 9.7 per cent in Antrim policing area to a rise of 62.9 per cent in Larne policing area.

Table 2 Domestic abuse incidents, crimes and crime outcome rates by policing district and policing area¹, 2012/13 and 2013/14

Policing district/area	Incidents			Crimes recorded			Numbers and percentages Crime outcomes (rate %) ²		
	2012/13	2013/14	change	2012/13	2013/14	change	2012/13	2013/14	% point change ³
North Belfast	2,406	2,265	-141	958	1,038	80	36.6	33.2	-3.4
West Belfast	1,540	1,270	-270	629	673	44	41.0	27.5	-13.5
A District	3,946	3,535	-411	1,587	1,711	124	38.4	31.0	-7.4
East Belfast	1,478	1,455	-23	623	681	58	34.0	30.7	-3.3
South Belfast	1,025	1,087	62	464	583	119	31.9	24.9	-7.0
B District	2,503	2,542	39	1,087	1,264	177	33.1	28.0	-5.1
Ards	861	928	67	361	389	28	31.0	25.4	-5.6
Castlereagh	540	622	82	202	266	64	38.6	24.4	-14.2
Down	718	888	170	323	420	97	31.9	29.8	-2.1
North Down	887	1,099	212	360	497	137	35.6	24.9	-10.6
C District	3,006	3,537	531	1,246	1,572	326	33.8	26.3	-7.5
Antrim	727	629	-98	329	297	-32	41.6	34.7	-7.0
Carrickfergus	492	500	8	183	206	23	31.7	23.8	-7.9
Lisburn	1,566	1,560	-6	640	787	147	34.2	27.6	-6.6
Newtownabbey	1,121	1,082	-39	428	511	83	35.0	31.3	-3.7
D District	3,906	3,771	-135	1,580	1,801	221	35.7	29.4	-6.3
Armagh	636	713	77	243	304	61	35.0	37.8	2.8
Banbridge	655	619	-36	253	245	-8	37.9	33.1	-4.9
Craigavon	1,784	1,927	143	698	861	163	36.0	35.3	-0.7
Newry & Mourne	1,221	1,337	116	578	665	87	38.6	37.3	-1.3
E District	4,296	4,596	300	1,772	2,075	303	37.0	36.0	-0.9
Cookstown	535	438	-97	185	196	11	42.7	33.7	-9.0
Dungannon & South Tyrone	773	654	-119	314	294	-20	40.4	37.4	-3.0
Fermanagh	750	740	-10	380	356	-24	47.4	31.2	-16.2
Omagh	639	670	31	272	273	1	43.8	35.2	-8.6
F District	2,697	2,502	-195	1,151	1,119	-32	43.9	34.2	-9.6
Foyle	2,405	2,448	43	983	1,071	88	34.4	36.6	2.2
Limavady	455	540	85	188	258	70	36.2	37.2	1.0
Magherafelt	434	442	8	204	238	34	33.8	34.9	1.1
Strabane	561	569	8	203	235	32	38.9	39.1	0.2
G District	3,855	3,999	144	1,578	1,802	224	35.1	36.8	1.7
Ballymena	895	1,031	136	390	473	83	45.1	32.1	-13.0
Ballymoney	368	322	-46	152	151	-1	28.3	32.5	4.2
Coleraine	1,109	1,106	-3	402	442	40	32.6	24.4	-8.2
Larne	412	517	105	140	228	88	37.1	35.1	-2.1
Moyle	197	170	-27	75	82	7	37.3	32.9	-4.4
H District	2,981	3,146	165	1,159	1,376	217	37.1	30.2	-6.9
Northern Ireland	27,190	27,628	438	11,160	12,720	1,560	36.7	31.7	-5.0

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

2. 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).

3. The % point change is calculated on unrounded outcomes rate 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

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 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 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 summary of domestic abuse incidents and crimes recorded by the police for the financial year 2013/14. Additional figures to accompany this bulletin are published in a spreadsheet:

http://www.psni.police.uk/quarterly_domestic_abuse_update_apr-mar_13_14.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 (previous and current 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 2012/13 are available in the publication Trends in Domestic Abuse Incidents and Crimes Recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland 1998/99 to 2012/13, available at:

http://www.psni.police.uk/domestic_abuse_incidents_and_crimes_in_northern_ireland_2004-05_to_2012-13.pdf

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: 028 9065 0222 ext 24135, Fax: 028 9092 2998