

Police Service of Northern Ireland

# Police Recorded Crime in Northern Ireland: Monthly Update to 31 March 2012

(Providing final figures for 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012)

**Published 10 May 2012**

# Police Recorded Crime in Northern Ireland: Monthly Update to 31 March 2012 (Final figures for 2011/12)

Published 10 May 2012

This monthly bulletin presents finalised statistics relating to crimes recorded by the police for the financial year 2011/12, which runs from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012. Knife and sharp instrument crime figures for each financial year 2007/08 to 2011/12 are also included in this bulletin.

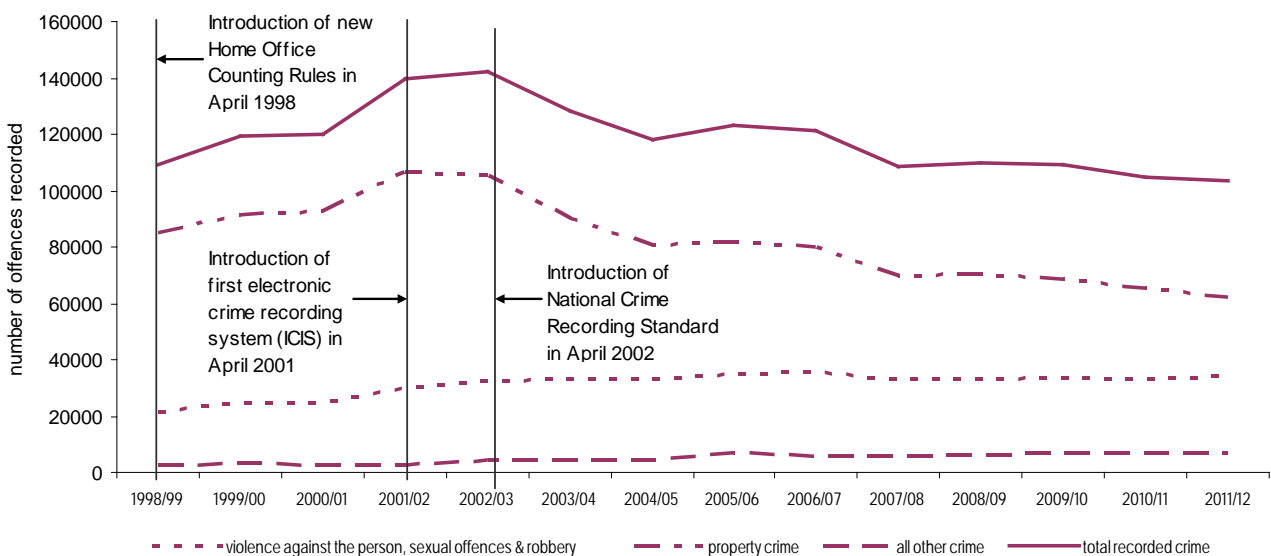
A range of more detailed tables are available in the [spreadsheet](#) which accompanies this bulletin. Further information on the contents of these tables can be found in the NOTES section on page 10 of this bulletin.

A more comprehensive publication covering trends from 1998/99 to 2011/12 will be available in early July 2012. The next monthly update covering the latest 12 months to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2012 will be published on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2012.

## OVERALL CRIME TRENDS

- Crime has shown a downwards trend over the last ten years. It reached a peak of 142,496 in 2002/03 and has since fallen to 103,389 in 2011/12, a decrease of 27.4 per cent. The level of crime in 2011/12 is 1.6 per cent lower than for 2010/11 and is the lowest level recorded since 1998/99 (the first year for which crime data comparable under the revised Home Office Counting Rules is available). When crime was at its highest level in 2002/03 the number of crimes per 1,000 population was 84. In 2011/12 this has fallen to 57 crimes per 1,000 population.
- The decrease in crime has mainly been experienced within property crime, with burglary, offences against vehicles and criminal damage falling to their lowest levels since 1998/99. Fraud and forgery offences fell to their lowest level in 2007/08. While the number rose in 2008/09, the level has since fallen year on year and 2011/12 shows the second lowest level of fraud and forgery recorded.
- Robbery fell to its lowest level in 2007/08 and has shown only slight change since then. The overall robbery figure for 2011/12 is the second lowest since 1998/99.
- Drug offences, on the other hand, are at their highest level since 1998/99. The number of such offences has increased year on year since 2006/07. Offences of this nature can be influenced by police activities (see Section 2.1 of the [User Guide to Police Recorded Crime Statistics](#)).
- Other theft offences have increased year on year since 2007/08, when the number was at its lowest level. The number of other theft offences in 2011/12 is the third highest level recorded, and is approaching the levels recorded in 2001/02 and 2002/03.
- Offences of violence against the person have shown an upwards trend since 2000/01, reaching a peak in 2006/07. The level fell again in 2007/08 and since then figures have remained fairly constant. The 2011/12 figure shows an increase on 2010/11 and is the third highest level recorded.
- Sexual offences have also shown an upwards trend since 2000/01, reaching a peak in 2010/11. The figure for 2011/12 is lower than for 2010/11 and is the third highest level recorded.
- The number of other miscellaneous offences reached a peak in 2009/10 before falling again to 2010/11. The figure for 2011/12 is only 3 higher than for the previous financial year.

Figure 1 Trends in recorded crime, 1998/99 to 2011/12

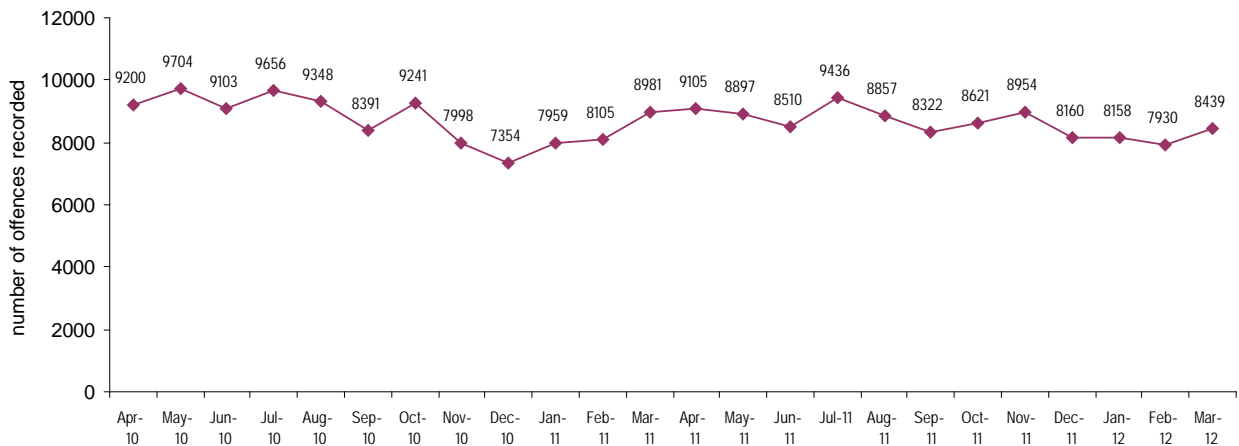


- Many policing areas are experiencing falling crime trends, with a number of policing areas showing their lowest level of crime recorded since 1998/99. These policing areas are North Belfast, Castlereagh, Down, North Down, Carrickfergus, Lisburn, Newtownabbey, Strabane, Larne and Moyle.
- In 2011/12 Fermanagh policing area recorded its highest level of crime since 1998/99, while Magherafelt has shown a year on year increase since 2008/09.
- Crime levels in other policing areas including East, South and West Belfast, Ards, Armagh, Banbridge, Craigavon, Cookstown, Omagh, Foyle, Ballymena, Ballymoney and Coleraine have remained relatively stable in recent years.
- While Antrim policing area was showing an upwards trend in recent years, there was a slight decrease in 2011/12.
- Newry & Mourne, Dungannon & South Tyrone and Limavady policing areas have shown a downward trend in recent years.

**COMPARISON OF 2011/12 WITH 2010/11**

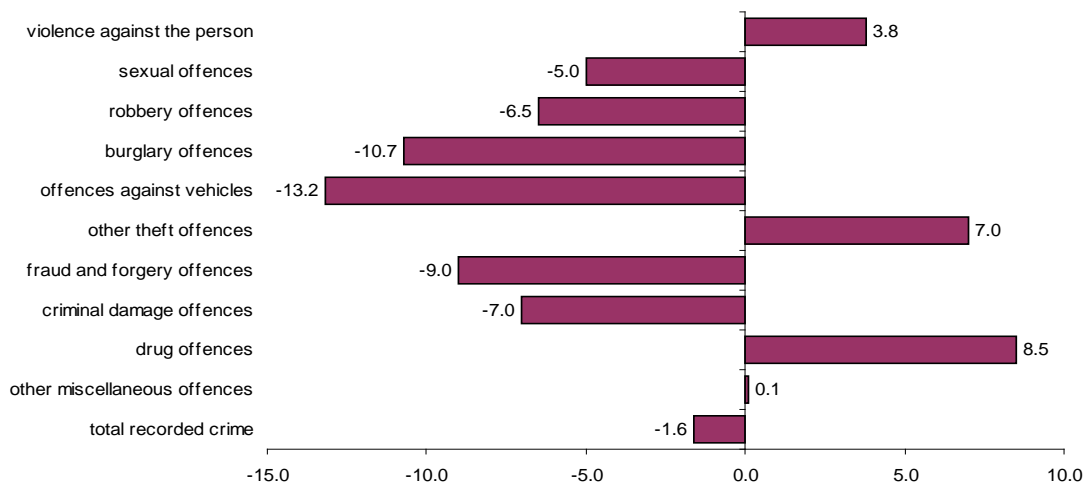
- Crime fell by 1.6 per cent between 2010/11 and 2011/12. While crime levels followed a similar monthly pattern when comparing each month in 2011/12 with the same month in 2010/11, the number of crimes recorded was lower in the majority of months during 2011/12. The exceptions were November 2011, December 2011 and January 2012 which were all higher than the same months the previous year. There was less variation in crime levels from month to month during 2011/12 when compared with the previous financial year.

**Figure 2 Total number of crimes each month, April 2010 to March 2012**

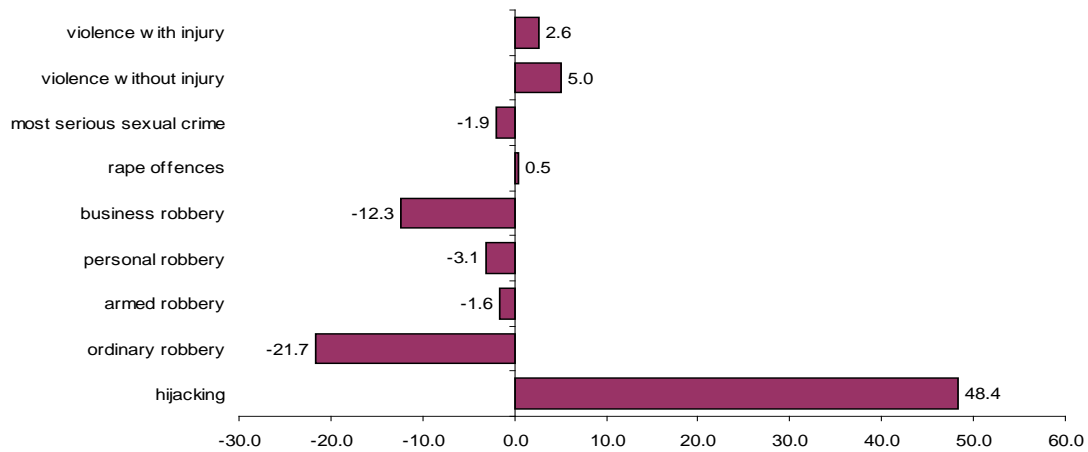


- As can be seen in figure 3 below, most of the main crime types showed a fall in the number of crimes recorded when comparing 2011/12 with 2010/11.

**Figure 3 Percentage change in the main recorded crime types, 2011/12 compared with 2010/11**

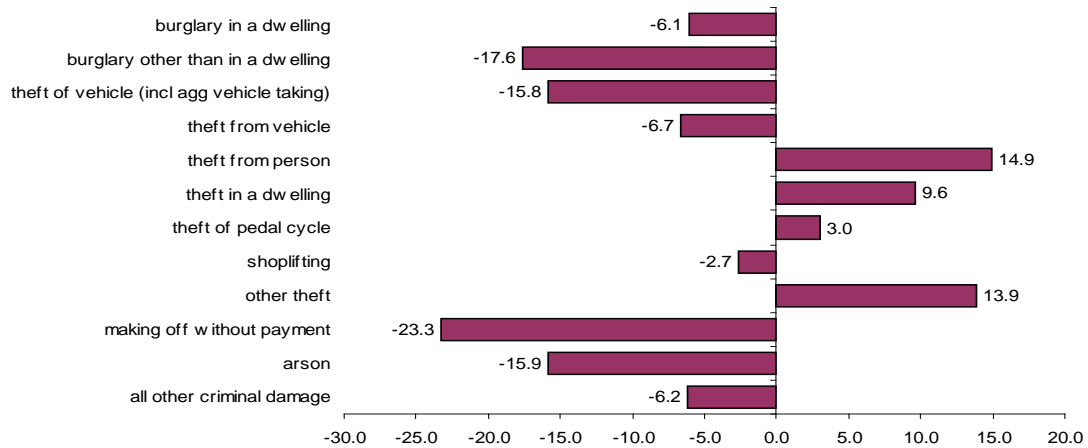


**Figure 4 Percentage change in violence against the person, sexual offences and robbery, 2011/12 compared with 2010/11**



- The number of offences of violence against the person with injury rose by 389 when comparing 2011/12 with 2010/11. In 2011/12 there were 16 murders, 4 fewer than in 2010/11 and the lowest number recorded in any financial year since 1998/99. There were 7 manslaughter offences, 1 less than in 2010/11.
- There was an increase of 739 in the number of offences of violence against the person without injury. The increase of 909 in assault without injury was partly offset by a fall in offences of threats to kill (-164).
- Most serious sexual crime fell by 31 offences. While there were 28 fewer sexual assault offences and 18 fewer sexual activity offences, the number of rape offences increased by 3, while the number of trafficking for sexual exploitation offences rose from 1 to 12.
- While there were decreases in most robbery offences, hijacking offences showed an increase of 59, from 122 to 181. The highest number of hijackings were recorded in July 2011 (35), compared with 18 the previous July. The number of hijacking offences was higher in each month December 2011 through to March 2012 (67 recorded over this time period) compared with 26 recorded during the same period the previous financial year.

**Figure 5 Percentage change in property type offences, 2011/12 compared with 2010/11**



- The number of offences of burglary in a dwelling fell by 431, while offences of burglary in a building other than a dwelling fell by 838.
- Each category within offences against vehicles fell: theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle by 403, interfering with a motor vehicle by 263, theft from a vehicle by 224 and aggravated vehicle taking by 26.
- The main offence within other theft to show a decrease was shoplifting which fell by 170. The largest increase was seen in other theft offences which rose by 1,309. Theft from the person increased by 79, theft in a dwelling by 53 and theft of a pedal cycle by 31.
- Within fraud and forgery, the offence of making off without payment fell by 316.
- Arson offences (both endangering and not endangering life) fell by 299. Criminal damage to a vehicle fell by 603, criminal damage to a dwelling fell by 382, other criminal damage fell by 351 and criminal damage to a building other than a dwelling fell by 90.
- **Drug offences:** trafficking offences rose by 84, possession offences excluding cannabis rose by 43 and cannabis possession offences increased by 173.

## DETECTION RATES

**Figure 6 Trends in Detection Rates, 1998/99 to 2011/12**

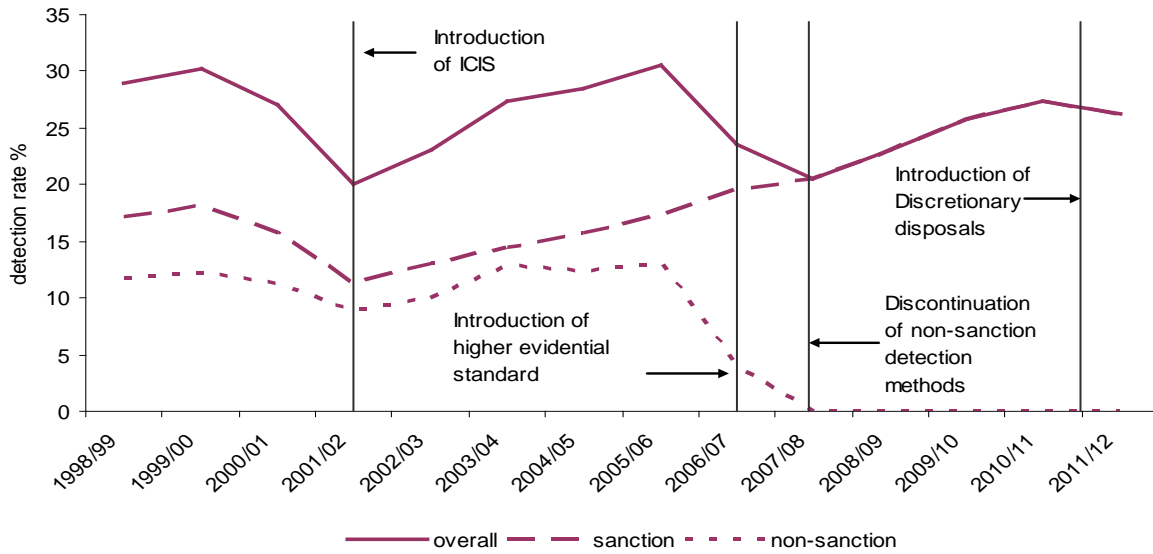


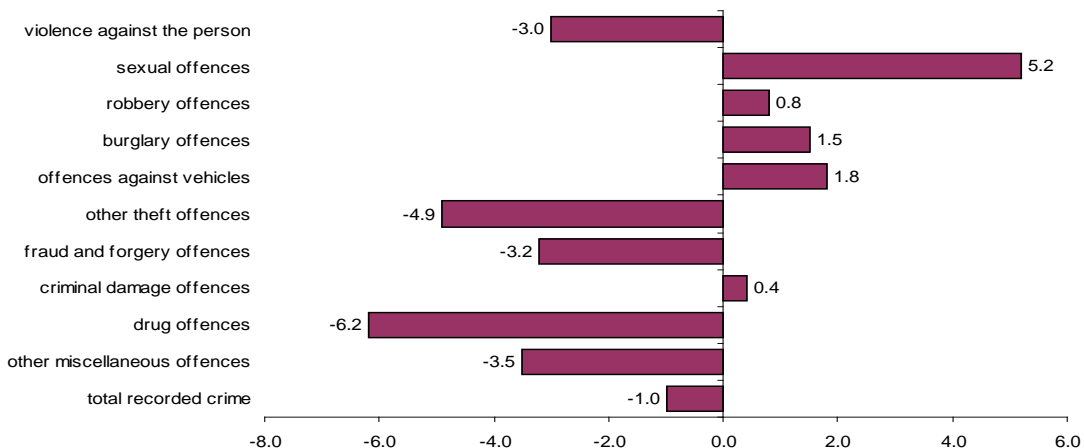
Figure 6 shows the trend in the overall detection rate, as well as by the sanction and non-sanction split, since 1998/99. Northern Ireland experienced a drop in the overall detection rate of 7 percentage points between 2000/01 and 2001/02, most likely influenced by the introduction of the ICIS system within PSNI. This system improved the capture of low level crimes such as criminal damage which tend to be harder to detect.

In April 2006, a higher evidential standard was adopted within the PSNI following the establishment of the Public Prosecution Service in Northern Ireland. This resulted in a fall in the overall detection rate, from 30.6% in 2005/06 to 23.6% in 2006/07. From April 2007 some of the methods allowed for claiming non-sanction detections were discontinued altogether, and the overall detection rate within Northern Ireland fell further, from 23.6% in 2006/07 to 20.5% in 2007/08. Since this date the overall and sanction detection rates have essentially been the same.

The sanction detection rate rose each year between 2001/02 and 2010/11 when it reached 27.3%, before falling by 1 percentage point to 26.3% in 2011/12. PSNI introduced discretionary disposals during 2011/12 and this may have contributed to the fall in the sanction detection rate.

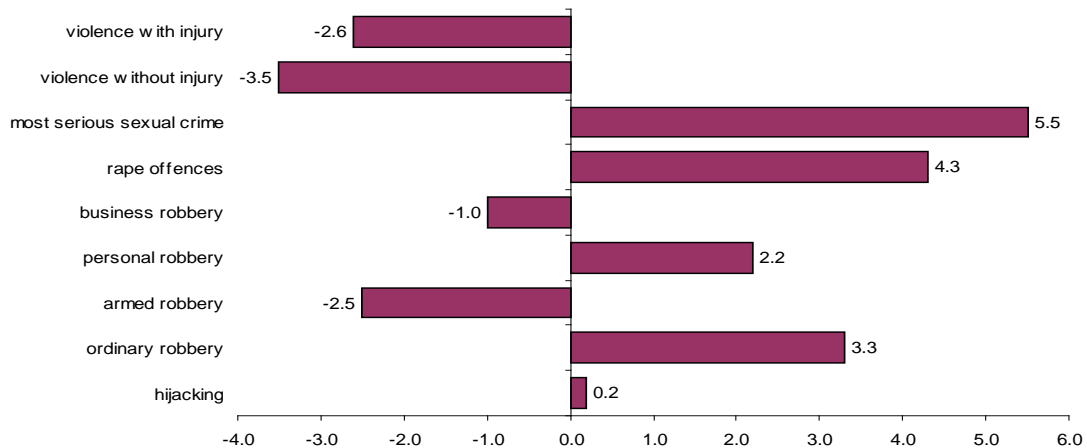
A discretionary disposal can be considered by a police officer for crimes that are comparatively minor by virtue of impact and/or seriousness and where the victim and offender agree on a suitable form of reparation such as an apology. Such a disposal provides a prompt means of disposing of a crime that is victim led and does not involve the formality of other disposal methods. However discretionary disposals are not a valid Home Office detection method and so are not available for inclusion within the crime detection rate. Therefore each use does have a negative impact on the overall detection rate. To illustrate this, analysis carried out prior to the end of March 2012 indicated that, if discretionary disposals for notifiable offences were added to the overall detection rate, this would have had the impact of adding around 3 percentage points.

**Figure 7 Percentage point change in the main recorded crime type sanction detection rates, 2011/12 compared with 2010/11**



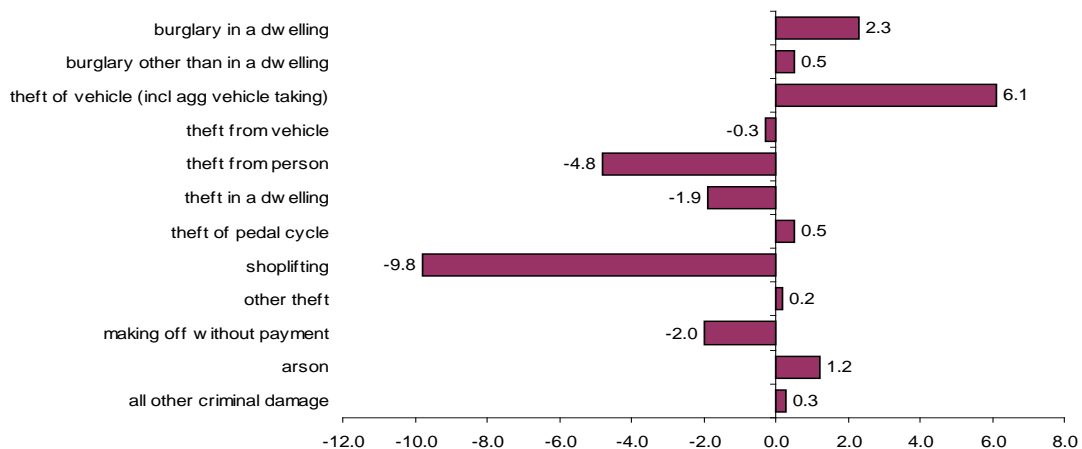
- The fall in the sanction detection is mainly reflected by a fall in the adult caution detection rate (2.9% to 2.2%) and in the juvenile caution detection rate (1.5% to 1.0%). The detection rate in respect of charge/summons remains largely unchanged (22.9% in 2011/12 compared with 22.8% in 2010/11).
- Those main crime types that showed an increase in crime between 2010/11 and 2011/12 also showed a fall in the sanction detection rate; violence against the person, other theft offences, drug offences and other miscellaneous offences. Fraud and forgery offences also showed a fall in the sanction detection rate.
- In 2011/12 the following main crime types achieved their highest detection rates since 1998/99; sexual offences (26.9%), robbery (20.6%), offences against vehicles (17.2%) and criminal damage (13.3%).
- The sanction detection rate for overall burglary of 12.6% achieved in 2011/12 has only been bettered by a rate of 12.8% in 1998/99.

**Figure 8 Percentage point change in violence against the person, sexual offences and robbery sanction detection rates, 2011/12 compared with 2010/11**



- The sanction detection rate for violence against the person with injury increased year on year from 19.4% in 2003/04 and reached a peak of 36.6% in 2010/11, before falling to 34.0% in 2011/12. Violence against the person without injury shows a similar trend, increasing year on year from 17.7% in 2001/02 to 41.8% in 2010/11 before falling to 38.3% in 2011/12.
- Most serious sexual crime reached its highest sanction detection rate (24.9%) in 2011/12. The sanction detection rate for rape offences was at its lowest point in 2009/10 (11.7%) but has increased each year since to a level of 18.1% in 2011/12.
- The introduction of discretionary disposals may have had some impact on the fall in the sanction detection rate for violence against the person without injury, due to its use in relation to assaults without injury.

**Figure 9 Percentage point change in property type offences sanction detection rates, 2011/12 compared with 2010/11**



- The burglary in a dwelling sanction detection rate of 12.0% achieved in 2011/12 is approaching the highest levels recorded of 12.1% in 1999/00 and 13.3% in 1998/99. The sanction detection rate for burglary in a building other than a dwelling of 13.7% equals the highest level which was previously achieved in 2004/05.
- The introduction of discretionary disposals may have had an impact on the fall in the sanction detection rate for the theft offences such as shoplifting and also for making off without payment.

**Table 1 Number of recorded crimes and sanction detection rates, 2010/11 and 2011/12**

Offence group	Recorded crime			Number and percentage changes		
	2010/11	2011/12	% change between years	Sanction detection rate (%)		
				2010/11	2011/12	% point change
Violence against the person offences	29,794	30,922	3.8	39.2	36.2	-3.0
<i>Violence against the person – with injury</i>	15,156	15,545	2.6	36.6	34.0	-2.6
<i>Violence against the person – without injury</i>	14,638	15,377	5.0	41.8	38.3	-3.5
Sexual offences	1,933	1,836	-5.0	21.7	26.9	5.2
<i>Most serious sexual crime</i>	1,605	1,574	-1.9	19.4	24.9	5.5
<i>Other sexual offences</i>	328	262	-20.1	32.9	38.5	5.6
Robbery offences	1,306	1,221	-6.5	19.8	20.6	0.8
<i>Robbery of business property</i>	479	420	-12.3	28.2	27.1	-1.0
<i>Robbery of personal property</i>	827	801	-3.1	15.0	17.2	2.2
Burglary offences	11,849	10,580	-10.7	11.1	12.6	1.5
<i>Burglary in a dwelling</i>	7,081	6,650	-6.1	9.7	12.0	2.3
<i>Burglary in a building other than a dwelling</i>	4,768	3,930	-17.6	13.2	13.7	0.5
Offences against vehicles	6,933	6,017	-13.2	15.4	17.2	1.8
<i>Theft from a vehicle</i>	3,350	3,126	-6.7	4.1	3.8	-0.3
<i>Theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle<sup>1</sup></i>	2,719	2,290	-15.8	31.3	37.4	6.1
<i>Interfering with a motor vehicle</i>	864	601	-30.4	9.6	10.0	0.4
Other theft offences	18,505	19,809	7.0	25.0	20.1	-4.9
<i>Of which: shoplifting</i>	6,371	6,201	-2.7	54.9	45.1	-9.8
Fraud and forgery offences	3,023	2,750	-9.0	33.0	29.8	-3.2
Criminal damage offences	24,996	23,255	-7.0	12.9	13.3	0.4
<b>TOTAL PROPERTY CRIME</b>	<b>65,306</b>	<b>62,411</b>	<b>-4.4</b>	<b>17.2</b>	<b>16.4</b>	<b>-0.8</b>
Drug offences	3,485	3,780	8.5	83.0	76.8	-6.2
<i>Drug trafficking</i>	762	846	11.0	75.5	75.8	0.3
<i>Drug non-trafficking</i>	2,723	2,934	7.7	85.1	77.1	-8.0
Other miscellaneous offences	3,216	3,219	0.1	68.5	65.0	-3.5
<b>TOTAL RECORDED CRIME – ALL OFFENCES</b>	<b>105,040</b>	<b>103,389</b>	<b>-1.6</b>	<b>27.3</b>	<b>26.3</b>	<b>-1.0</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes aggravated vehicle taking as well as theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle.

**Table 2 Recorded crime and sanction detection rates by policing district and policing area, 2010/11 and 2011/12**

Policing district/area	Numbers and percentages					
	Recorded crime <sup>1</sup>			Sanction detection rate (%) <sup>2</sup>		
	2010/11	2011/12	% change 2010/11 to 2011/12	2010/11	2011/12	% point change 2010/11 to 2011/12 <sup>3</sup>
North Belfast	7,897	7,504	-5.0	28.2	25	-3.1
West Belfast	5,517	5,508	-0.2	23.7	26.8	3.1
<b>A District</b>	<b>13,414</b>	<b>13,012</b>	<b>-3.0</b>	<b>26.3</b>	<b>25.8</b>	<b>-0.5</b>
East Belfast	4,975	5,125	3.0	25.4	22.8	-2.7
South Belfast	11,445	11,923	4.2	29.0	25.4	-3.5
<b>B District</b>	<b>16,420</b>	<b>17,048</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>27.9</b>	<b>24.6</b>	<b>-3.3</b>
Ards	2,885	2,801	-2.9	28.8	25.5	-3.3
Castlereagh	2,179	1,895	-13.0	26.2	24.9	-1.3
Down	3,931	3,277	-16.6	25.2	24.4	-0.8
North Down	3,284	3,206	-2.4	30.8	29.4	-1.4
<b>C District</b>	<b>12,279</b>	<b>11,179</b>	<b>-9.0</b>	<b>27.7</b>	<b>26.2</b>	<b>-1.5</b>
Antrim	3,279	3,247	-1.0	23.1	21.6	-1.6
Carrickfergus	1,615	1,440	-10.8	24.7	23.8	-1.0
Lisburn	5,884	5,291	-10.1	28.1	27.5	-0.7
Newtownabbey	4,223	3,924	-7.1	21.3	22.1	0.8
<b>D District</b>	<b>15,001</b>	<b>13,902</b>	<b>-7.3</b>	<b>24.8</b>	<b>24.2</b>	<b>-0.6</b>
Armagh	2,437	2,466	1.2	22.9	24.2	1.3
Banbridge	1,969	1,948	-1.1	26.5	26.8	0.4
Craigavon	5,286	5,438	2.9	29.9	29.8	-0.1
Newry & Mourne	5,350	5,100	-4.7	26.1	29.2	3.0
<b>E District</b>	<b>15,042</b>	<b>14,952</b>	<b>-0.6</b>	<b>27.0</b>	<b>28.3</b>	<b>1.3</b>
Cookstown	1,779	1,950	9.6	35.7	30.6	-5.1
Dungannon & South Tyrone	2,761	2,546	-7.8	24.9	26.0	1.2
Fermanagh	2,904	3,182	9.6	30.4	29.4	-1.0
Omagh	2,346	2,291	-2.3	33.4	32.5	-0.9
<b>F District</b>	<b>9,790</b>	<b>9,969</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>30.5</b>	<b>29.5</b>	<b>-1.0</b>
Foyle	7,446	7,820	5.0	28.0	26.3	-1.7
Limavady	2,166	1,988	-8.2	33.1	31.7	-1.4
Magherafelt	1,573	1,618	2.9	30.2	28.4	-1.8
Strabane	1,629	1,570	-3.6	26.6	24.1	-2.5
<b>G District</b>	<b>12,814</b>	<b>12,996</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>28.9</b>	<b>27.1</b>	<b>-1.8</b>
Ballymena	3,361	3,462	3.0	28.1	26.9	-1.3
Ballymoney	994	1,050	5.6	18.4	21.7	3.3
Coleraine	3,643	3,672	0.8	30.2	28.8	-1.4
Larne	1,541	1,443	-6.4	19.7	18.6	-1.1
Moyle	741	704	-5.0	21.7	23.2	1.4
<b>H District</b>	<b>10,280</b>	<b>10,331</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>26.2</b>	<b>25.6</b>	<b>-0.6</b>
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>105,040</b>	<b>103,389</b>	<b>-1.6</b>	<b>27.3</b>	<b>26.3</b>	<b>-1.0</b>

1. 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.



## Knife and Sharp Instrument Crime

Since April 2007 the Home Office has collected additional data from police forces on offences involving knives and sharp instruments, where a sharp instrument is any object that pierces the skin (or in the case of a threat is capable of piercing the skin), e.g. a broken bottle. Knives and sharp instruments are taken to be involved in an incident if they are used to stab or cut, or as a threat. Offence coverage is for a group of selected offences, as detailed in tables 3 and 4 below.

**Please note:** the records used to provide the figures in tables 3 and 4 are identified from an operational crime recording system and, as such, may be subject to change where more up-to-date weapon information becomes available.

Figures in table 3 relating to actual bodily harm & grievous bodily harm, along with total selected offences, for the years 2007/08 to 2010/11 have been revised slightly due to classification issues which were recently identified and have now been resolved. As a result they differ slightly to those published in table 3.1 of the [Trends in Police Recorded Crime in Northern Ireland 1998/99 to 2010/11](#) bulletin, currently available on the PSNI Internet site. Figures in table 4 below (and in table 3.2 of the trends bulletin) remain unaffected.

**Table 3 Selected violent and sexual offences recorded by the police involving knives or sharp instruments<sup>1</sup> by offence type in Northern Ireland, 2007/08 to 2011/12**

Selected offence type	Numbers				
	Number of selected offences involving a knife or sharp instrument				
	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Homicide <sup>2</sup>	5	8	7	8	7
Attempted murder	50	44	31	33	40
Threats to kill	100	102	105	67	74
Actual bodily harm & grievous bodily harm <sup>3</sup>	569	521	600	520	492
Robbery	207	236	228	215	249
Rape / sexual assaults <sup>4</sup>	3	9	7	8	7
<b>Total selected offences</b>	<b>934</b>	<b>920</b>	<b>978</b>	<b>851</b>	<b>869</b>

**Table 4 Proportion of selected violent and sexual offences recorded by the police involving knives or sharp instruments<sup>1</sup> by offence type in Northern Ireland, 2007/08 to 2011/12** (i.e. 30 per cent of all homicides in 2011/12 involved knives or sharp instruments)

Selected offence type	Percentages				
	Number of selected offences involving a knife or sharp instrument				
	2007/08 (%)	2008/09 (%)	2009/10 (%)	2010/11 (%)	2011/12 (%)
Homicide <sup>2</sup>	17	31	32	29	30
Attempted murder	37	35	27	30	35
Threats to kill	5	5	5	3	3
Actual bodily harm & grievous bodily harm <sup>3</sup>	4	3	4	3	3
Robbery	18	18	18	16	20
Rape / sexual assaults <sup>4</sup>	0	1	1	1	1
<b>Total selected offences</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>

1. A sharp instrument is any object that pierces the skin (or in the case of a threat, is capable of piercing the skin), eg a broken bottle. The knife and sharp instrument figures presented here are based on weapon details taken from a live operational system and are therefore subject to change.

2. Homicide includes murder, manslaughter and infanticide.

3. Includes 5A Inflicting grievous bodily harm (GBH) with intent, 8F Inflicting grievous bodily harm (GBH) without intent and 8G Actual bodily harm (AOABH) and other injury.

4. Includes indecent assault on a male/female (classifications 17/20) and sexual assault on a male/female (classifications 17A/17B/20A/20B), as well as 19A-19H Rape.

## NOTES

### Strengths and Limitations of Police Recorded Crime Statistics and Alternative Measures of Crime

While this monthly update presents the level of crime recorded by the police, there is an alternative but complementary measure of crime, the Northern Ireland Crime Survey (NICS) which is published by the Department of Justice for Northern Ireland. Each source of crime information has different strengths and limitations but can be looked at together to provide a more comprehensive picture of crime than could be obtained from either series alone. Details around the need for both recorded crime figures and the NICS can be found in paragraphs 1.2 and 1.3 of the bulletin [Experience of Crime: Findings from the 2010/11 Northern Ireland Crime Survey](#). Both of these measures of crime inform public debate about crime and support the development and monitoring of policy.

Unlike the Northern Ireland Crime Survey, 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). It was estimated in 2010/11 that around 44 per cent of NICS comparable crime was reported to the police in Northern Ireland although this varied for individual offence types.

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.

### Data Accuracy

Figures within the current financial year to date are provisional and will be subject to slight revision until finalised figures for the full financial year are published. Within year, crime figures are subject to a validation and quality assurance process and overall crime figures at Northern Ireland, District and Area level will cover all records identified as crimes, including those that have not yet completed the validation process. Figures covering the full financial year from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March are presented in their finalised format and will not be subject to revision.

### Revisions

As mentioned above in relation to Data Accuracy, figures within the current financial year to date are provisional and will be subject to slight revision until finalised figures for the full financial year are published. This means that the totals for each month, crime type and policing district for each month from April 2011 can change each time the figures are published during the financial year.

These revisions will happen for one of a number of reasons:

- Incidents identified as crimes but not processed on the crime recording system by the time the figures are extracted for publication will appear in subsequent updates. For example, a crime is reported to the police on 1st November 2011 and it is fully processed on the crime recording system by 15th November 2011. As figures for the bulletin covering the latest 12 months to 30th November 2011 were extracted on 20th December 2011 (and published 22nd December 2011), this crime will be included in the November figures in this publication. However if the same crime is not processed on the crime recording system until 15th January 2012, it will not be available for inclusion in the figures until the data extracted on 24th January 2012 for publication on 26th January 2012.
- Figures may change from month to month due to crimes being reclassified from one crime type to another during the financial year. This may be because quality checks have identified the crime as incorrectly classified, or further information may indicate that the circumstances surrounding the crime were not as initially recorded.
- These revisions are not always in an upwards direction. The Home Office Counting Rules allow crimes initially recorded to be 'no crime'd' or removed from the crime figures. This can happen for a number of reasons:
  - the crime was committed outside the jurisdiction of the police force in which it was recorded;
  - additional verifiable information becomes available which determines that no notifiable crime has been committed;
  - the crime, as alleged, constitutes part of a crime already recorded;
  - the reported incident was recorded as a crime in error.Full guidance on 'no crimes' are available in the [Home Office Counting Rules](#).

Table 5 on the following page shows the extent of revisions to the figures contained in the monthly update to 29 February 2012, which were first published in March 2012.

**Table 5 Extent of revisions for crime figures contained in the monthly update to 29 February 2012, which was first published 29<sup>th</sup> March 2012**

	As published in March 2012	As published in May 2012	Numbers & Percentages				
			Scale of revision		% change between years		
			number	%	As published Mar'12	As published May'12	
Financial Year to date: Apr 2011 to Feb 2012	94,583	94,950	367	0.4	-1.5	-1.2	
12 Months Mar 2011 to Feb 2012	103,564	103,931	367	0.4	-1.6	-1.3	

### Additional data

This bulletin shows a Northern Ireland level summary of police recorded crime for the 2011/12 financial year. Additional figures to accompany this bulletin are published in a separate [spreadsheet](#) which provides:

- a detailed breakdown of recorded crimes, sanction detections (numbers) and sanction detection rates (%) at Northern Ireland level for each individual crime classification and for each year from 1998/99 to 2011/12
- the number of detections and detection rate (%) by method of detection at a Northern Ireland level for each year from 1998/99 to 2011/12
- summary tables for Northern Ireland, each policing district and each policing area comparing recorded crimes and sanction detection rates for 2011/12 with 2010/11 by a range of crime types
- a pivot table providing statistics on recorded crime, sanction detections (numbers) and sanction detection rates (%) with each data measure available:
  - at Northern Ireland level as well as for each policing district and policing area
  - for a range of crime types
  - for a range of time periods (2010/11, 2011/12 and each of the last 24 months)
- two pivot tables, one by age and one by gender providing statistics on recorded crime, sanction detections (numbers), sanction detection rates (%) and population rate (per 1,000 population) with each data measure available:
  - at Northern Ireland level
  - for a range of crime types;
  - by age range or gender
  - for the latest two financial years, 2010/11 and 2011/12

Each 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

[Trends in Police Recorded Crime in Northern Ireland 1998/99 to 2010/11](#) provides detailed trend information covering this time period. An updated publication covering trends from 1998/99 to 2011/12 will be available in early July 2012.

Further details on Police Recorded Crime statistics are available in the [User Guide to Police Recorded Crime Statistics in Northern Ireland](#), and in the [Police Recorded Crime Statistics Quality Report](#). These are reference guides with explanatory notes regarding the issues and classifications which are key to the production and presentation of police recorded crime statistics.

Copies of other PSNI publications are available from the [PSNI Internet site](#).

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

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