

Statistical Release

Crime and Justice Series

A National Statistics Publication for Scotland
HOMICIDE IN SCOTLAND, 2010-11
14 December 2011



Scotland's Chief Statistician today published the latest figures on the number of homicides recorded by the 8 Scottish police forces in 2010-11. Summary information for the period 2001-02 to 2010-11 is provided below. The complete version of the *Homicide in Scotland* statistical bulletin is published biennially and is next scheduled for publication in 2012.

Homicide cases and victims ([Table 1](#))

In 2010-11, there were 95 homicide cases recorded by the police in Scotland. These homicide cases resulted in the death of 97 victims, an increase of 18% compared to the 82 homicide victims that were recorded in 2009-10. The number of homicide victims per million population was 19 in 2010-11, compared with 16 in 2009-10 (see [Annex 1.10](#)).

Homicide cases by police force area ([Table 2](#))

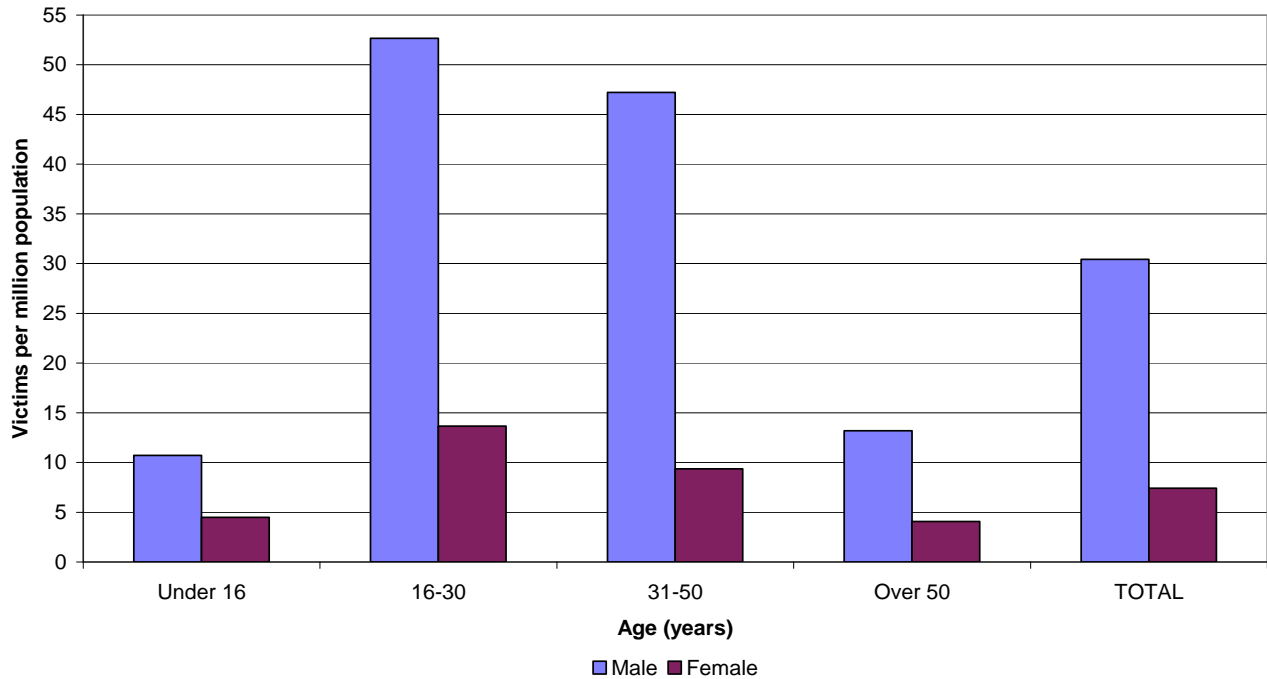
Between 2009-10 and 2010-11, there was a decrease in the number of homicide cases recorded in Fife (from 5 to 2), Grampian (from 6 to 5) and Tayside (from 7 to 0) police force areas. Strathclyde police force area, which contained 43% of the estimated population of Scotland in 2010 (see [Annex 1.10](#)), accounted for 64% (61) of all homicide cases recorded in 2010-11, increasing from 55% (44) of all cases in 2009-10.

Lothian and Borders and Northern police force areas reported an increase in the number of homicide cases recorded between 2009-10 and 2010-11, rising from 12 cases to 20 and 3 cases to 4 respectively. The number of homicide cases recorded in both Central (3) and Dumfries and Galloway (0) police force areas remained constant between 2009-10 and 2010-11.

Location of homicide cases ([Table 3](#))

In 2010-11, the most common location for homicides to occur was within a residential house or dwelling (64% of all homicide cases), followed by a street or footpath (22%). This distribution has remained consistent over the 10 year period covered by this statistical release.

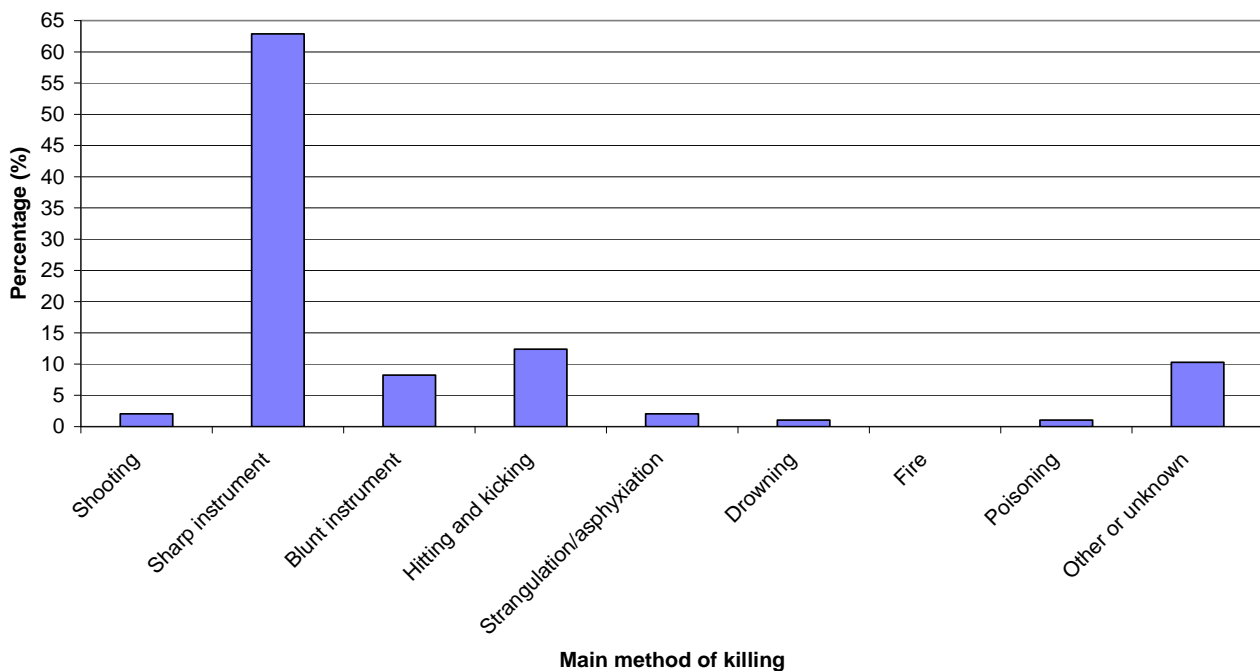
Chart 1: Homicide victims per million population by age and gender, Scotland, 2010-11



Age and gender of homicide victims ([Table 4](#) and [Chart 1](#))

The rate of male homicide victims (30 per million population) was more than 4 times the rate for female homicide victims (7 per million population). There were 77 male homicide victims in 2010-11, 79% of the total number of victims recorded. Males aged less than 1 year represented the highest victim rate with 100 homicide victims per million population recorded in 2010-11.

Chart 2: Victims of homicide by main method of killing, Scotland, 2010-11



Main method of killing ([Table 5](#) and [Chart 2](#))

The most common method of killing in the 10 year period covered by this statistical release was with a sharp instrument (see [Annex 1.8](#)). In 2010-11, 61 homicide victims were killed by a sharp instrument, accounting for 63% of all homicide victims recorded.

Age and gender of accused persons ([Table 6](#))

A total of 138 accused persons were identified for the homicides that were recorded in 2010-11. As in previous years, the majority (80%) of accused persons were male, with nearly half (45%) of all accused being males aged between 16 to 30 years.

Relationship of main accused to victim ([Table 7](#))

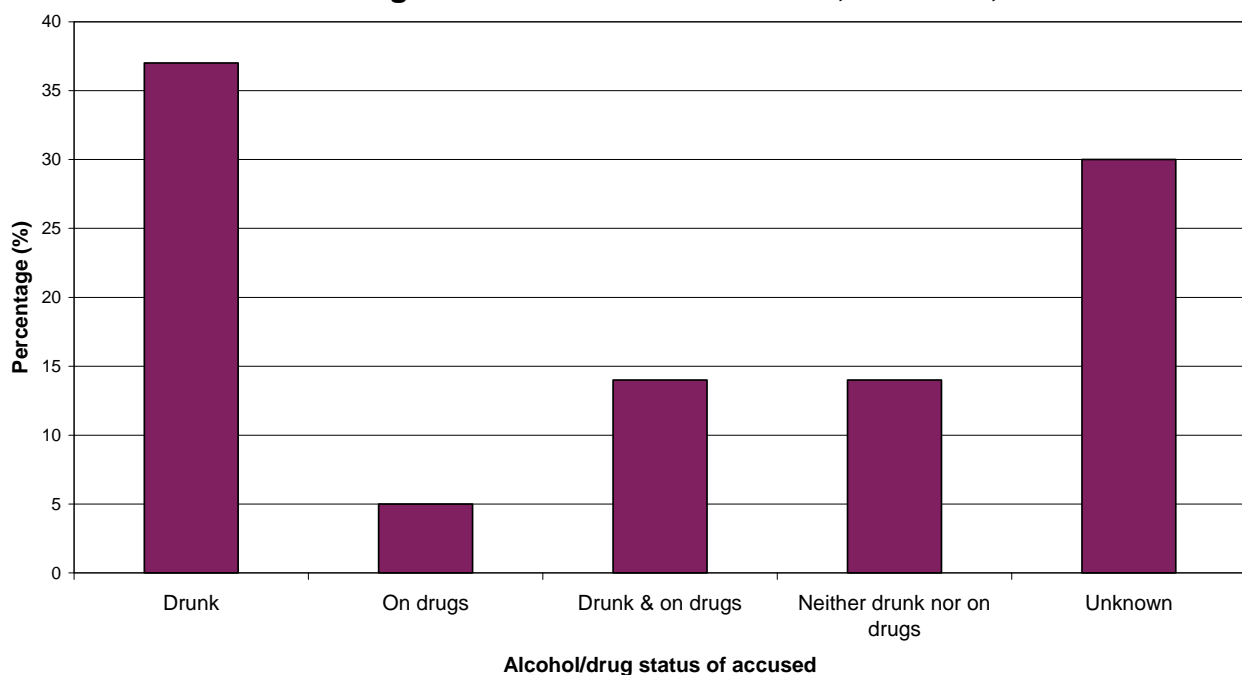
For 96 of the 97 homicide victims recorded in 2010-11, 1 or more accused persons had been identified. The police were able to establish what the relationship of the main accused was to 93 (97%) of these 96 victims. The main accused was known to 88% of these 93 victims: 15% of victims were presumed to have been killed by a partner or ex-partner, 16% by a relative and 57% by an acquaintance.

In 2010-11, 12% of homicide victims were killed by a stranger where the relationship of the main accused to the victim was established.

Main motive for killing ([Table 8](#))

Where an accused person had been identified in 2010-11, the most common reason behind committing a homicide was a fight or a quarrel (29%), followed by rage or fury (20%). This distribution has remained relatively consistent over the 10 year period covered by this statistical release.

Chart 3: Alcohol and drug status of homicide accused, Scotland, 2010-11



Alcohol and drug status of accused persons ([Table 9](#) and [Chart 3](#))

The alcohol and drug status was known for 97 (70%) of the 138 persons accused of homicide in 2010-11. Of these 97 accused, 79% were reported to have been drunk and/or on drugs at the time the homicide was committed (53% were drunk, 7% were on drugs and 20% were both drunk and on drugs). 21% of accused persons were reported not to have been under the influence of either alcohol or drugs.

Table 1. Homicide cases, victims and accused persons, Scotland, 2001-02 to 2010-11

	Number									
Homicide cases, victims and accused	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Number of cases	114	123	108	134	94	118	115	97	80	95
Number of victims	115	125	109	137	94	119	115	99	82	97
Number of victims per million population¹	23	25	22	27	18	23	22	19	16	19
Number of accused	160	176	156	188	140	167	149	132	121	138

1. See Annex 1.10.

Table 2. Homicide cases by police force area, Scotland, 2001-02 to 2010-11

	Number									
Police Force Area (and selected councils)	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Central	5	6	1	6	2	3	3	5	3	3
Dumfries and Galloway	5	-	3	3	3	-	1	2	-	-
Fife	2	2	3	3	2	5	7	5	5	2
Grampian	5	9	7	9	3	9	6	8	6	5
Aberdeen City	3	5	5	5	2	5	4	6	3	-
Lothian and Borders	15	14	16	22	10	16	19	7	12	20
City of Edinburgh	8	9	6	11	9	11	11	4	7	12
Northern	4	5	1	5	4	5	6	4	3	4
Strathclyde	71	78	73	82	62	76	66	59	44	61
Glasgow City	34	40	33	39	32	33	30	24	20	26
Tayside	7	9	4	4	8	4	7	7	7	-
Dundee City	5	6	2	2	6	3	2	3	3	-
SCOTLAND	114	123	108	134	94	118	115	97	80	95

Table 3. Location of homicide cases, Scotland, 2001-02 to 2010-11

	Number									
Location	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Residential	76	80	74	78	47	78	73	59	52	66
House, dwelling, etc.	70	73	63	69	44	73	63	51	49	61
Garden of house	1	1	3	2	1	1	3	3	1	1
Close, common stair	4	3	6	5	1	3	5	3	2	4
Hostel, hotel, lodging house	1	3	2	2	1	1	2	2	-	-
Public place indoors	4	5	8	4	6	8	6	1	3	3
Licensed premises (bar, club, etc.)	1	2	4	2	2	2	2	-	1	-
Other commercial premises	2	1	2	2	4	3	3	1	2	2
School, hospital, church	-	1	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	1
Transport (car, train, taxi, etc.)	1	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Public place outdoors	34	38	26	52	41	32	36	37	25	26
Street or footpath	23	30	21	44	32	28	26	27	22	21
Open outdoor area	9	7	4	6	7	4	8	10	3	5
Unknown	2	1	1	2	2	-	2	-	-	-
TOTAL	114	123	108	134	94	118	115	97	80	95

Table 4. Age and gender of homicide victims by rate per million population¹, Scotland, 2001-02 to 2010-11

Age and gender of victim	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
	Number:									
All victims	115	125	109	137	94	119	115	99	82	97
Under 1 year	4	1	4	4	3	1	2	2	-	3
1 to 4	2	3	-	4	-	1	2	1	1	1
5 to 15	1	5	4	4	1	3	2	2	1	3
16 to 20	13	13	9	12	11	14	14	10	9	14
21 to 30	24	33	29	41	18	35	24	24	18	21
31 to 50	47	48	46	48	48	44	50	47	37	40
51 to 70	19	16	15	21	11	18	18	10	15	14
71 and over	5	6	2	3	2	3	3	3	1	1
Male victims	93	105	94	110	81	99	91	71	55	77
Under 1 year	2	-	2	4	1	-	-	1	-	3
1 to 4	1	1	-	3	-	1	1	1	1	-
5 to 15	1	3	3	3	1	2	1	2	-	2
16 to 20	12	10	7	9	9	14	12	6	6	12
21 to 30	20	30	27	36	14	30	20	21	16	16
31 to 50	37	44	42	40	44	36	41	33	24	33
51 to 70	17	12	13	15	11	15	15	7	8	11
71 and over	3	5	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-
Female victims	22	20	15	27	13	20	24	28	27	20
Under 1 year	2	1	2	-	2	1	2	1	-	-
1 to 4	1	2	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1
5 to 15	-	2	1	1	-	1	1	-	1	1
16 to 20	1	3	2	3	2	-	2	4	3	2
21 to 30	4	3	2	5	4	5	4	3	2	5
31 to 50	10	4	4	8	4	8	9	14	13	7
51 to 70	2	4	2	6	-	3	3	3	7	3
71 and over	2	1	2	3	1	2	2	3	1	1
	Rate per million population:									
All victims	23	25	22	27	18	23	22	19	16	19
Under 1 year	77	20	77	75	55	18	35	34	-	51
1 to 4	9	14	-	19	-	5	9	4	4	4
5 to 15	1	7	6	6	2	5	3	3	2	5
16 to 20	41	41	28	37	33	42	42	30	27	42
21 to 30	38	53	47	67	29	55	36	35	26	30
31 to 50	31	32	31	32	32	29	34	32	25	28
51 to 70	17	14	13	18	9	15	15	8	12	11
71 and over	10	11	4	6	4	5	5	5	2	2
Male victims	38	43	39	45	33	40	37	28	22	30
Under 1 year	76	-	76	145	36	-	-	33	-	100
1 to 4	9	9	-	28	-	9	9	9	9	-
5 to 15	3	9	9	9	3	6	3	6	-	6
16 to 20	74	62	43	54	53	82	70	35	35	71
21 to 30	64	97	88	118	45	93	60	61	45	44
31 to 50	51	60	58	55	61	50	57	46	34	47
51 to 70	32	22	24	27	20	26	26	12	14	18
71 and over	15	25	-	-	5	5	5	-	-	-
Female victims	8	8	6	10	5	8	9	10	10	7
Under 1 year	78	40	79	-	76	37	72	34	-	-
1 to 4	9	19	-	10	-	-	9	-	-	9
5 to 15	-	6	3	3	-	3	3	-	3	3
16 to 20	6	19	13	19	12	-	12	25	18	12
21 to 30	12	10	6	16	13	16	12	9	6	14
31 to 50	13	5	5	10	5	10	12	18	17	9
51 to 70	3	7	3	10	-	5	5	5	11	5
71 and over	6	3	6	9	3	6	6	9	3	3

1. See Annex 1.10.

Table 5. Homicide victims by main method of killing, Scotland, 2001-02 to 2010-11

Main method of killing ¹	Number									
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Shooting	5	3	2	8	8	8	4	2	2	2
Sharp instrument	56	60	55	72	34	54	55	57	35	61
Blunt instrument	9	15	5	8	4	15	8	8	10	8
Hitting and kicking	18	18	22	14	24	16	15	10	10	12
Strangulation/asphyxiation	9	7	5	10	4	3	6	5	7	2
Drowning	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	1	-	1
Fire	3	-	3	1	3	3	1	3	4	-
Poisoning	5	4	8	12	9	13	12	8	3	1
Other or unknown	10	18	9	11	8	7	12	5	11	10
All victims	115	125	109	137	94	119	115	99	82	97

1. See Annex 1.8.

Table 6. Age and gender of persons accused of homicide by rate per million population¹, Scotland, 2001-02 to 2010-11

Age and gender of accused	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
	Number:									
All accused	160	176	156	188	140	167	149	132	121	138
Under 16	4	8	4	8	4	7	3	4	5	4
16 to 20	31	39	29	35	45	49	32	30	28	33
21 to 30	58	52	70	71	44	59	50	43	44	42
31 to 50	61	63	48	62	43	41	55	48	31	56
51 and over	6	14	5	12	4	11	9	7	13	3
Male accused	141	156	147	169	122	154	131	114	101	111
Under 16	3	7	4	8	4	7	3	4	5	4
16 to 20	26	34	26	33	43	48	26	26	23	25
21 to 30	52	49	66	64	35	53	44	40	39	37
31 to 50	54	54	46	54	37	36	50	37	23	43
51 and over	6	12	5	10	3	10	8	7	11	2
Female accused	19	20	9	19	18	13	18	18	20	27
Under 16	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16 to 20	5	5	3	2	2	1	6	4	5	8
21 to 30	6	3	4	7	9	6	6	3	5	5
31 to 50	7	9	2	8	6	5	5	11	8	13
51 and over	-	2	-	2	1	1	1	-	2	1
	Rate per million population:									
All accused	32	35	31	37	27	33	29	26	23	26
Under 16	4	8	4	9	4	8	3	4	5	4
16 to 20	97	122	90	107	135	147	96	90	84	99
21 to 30	91	83	114	116	71	92	76	63	63	59
31 to 50	41	42	32	41	29	27	37	33	21	39
51 and over	4	8	3	7	2	6	5	4	7	2
Male accused	58	64	60	69	50	62	53	46	40	44
Under 16	6	14	8	17	8	15	6	9	11	9
16 to 20	160	210	159	197	253	282	152	151	135	147
21 to 30	167	159	216	209	113	165	133	117	110	102
31 to 50	74	74	63	74	51	50	70	52	33	62
51 and over	8	16	7	13	4	13	10	9	13	2
Female accused	7	8	3	7	7	5	7	7	7	10
Under 16	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16 to 20	32	32	19	12	12	6	37	25	31	49
21 to 30	19	10	13	23	29	19	18	9	15	14
31 to 50	9	12	3	10	8	6	6	14	11	17
51 and over	-	2	-	2	1	1	1	-	2	1

1. See Annex 1.10.

Table 7. Relationship of main homicide accused to victim, Scotland, 2001-02 to 2010-11

Relationship of main accused to victim	Number									
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Victims - solved cases	113	122	108	135	91	118	112	96	81	96
Son or daughter	1	3	6	1	5	5	5	1	4	4
Parent	5	7	3	6	2	2	2	6	1	7
Partner or ex-partner	13	13	5	14	16	11	22	18	13	14
Other relative	5	6	5	5	3	8	2	4	3	4
Acquaintance:										
Friend or social acquaintance	43	43	36	40	20	33	32	33	31	37
Business or criminal associate	5	5	5	5	3	3	4	-	1	-
Rival gang member	1	5	2	6	2	5	2	3	1	2
Other known person	19	19	15	26	19	19	21	16	9	14
Stranger:										
Victim known to accused	3	3	3	6	2	-	2	2	1	-
Victim unknown to accused	16	13	20	17	18	20	13	11	14	11
Unknown	2	5	8	9	1	12	7	2	3	3
Victims - unsolved cases	2	3	1	2	3	1	3	3	1	1
All victims	115	125	109	137	94	119	115	99	82	97

Table 8. Homicide victims by main motive for killing, Scotland, 2001-02 to 2010-11

Main motive ¹	Number									
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Victims - solved cases	113	122	108	135	91	118	112	96	81	96
Rage, fury	20	21	20	22	10	14	23	10	13	19
Fight or quarrel	38	44	41	43	35	34	33	33	27	28
Jealousy	5	4	1	4	4	3	6	6	3	8
Sexual	3	1	2	1	2	3	1	3	4	-
Financial (theft or gain)	10	6	4	6	2	3	1	9	3	8
Feud, faction rivalry	8	13	8	16	11	14	8	8	6	5
Insanity	-	4	-	3	-	3	1	2	1	3
Contract killing	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	2
Suicide pact or mercy killing	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	1	-	-
Other	7	14	17	14	10	15	20	7	7	7
Unknown	21	15	14	26	15	27	18	17	17	16
Victims - unsolved cases	2	3	1	2	3	1	3	3	1	1
All victims	115	125	109	137	94	119	115	99	82	97

1. See Annex 1.8.

Table 9. Alcohol and drug status of persons accused of homicide, Scotland, 2001-02 to 2010-11

Alcohol/drug status of accused	Number									
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Drunk	52	62	54	50	57	50	33	39	39	51
On drugs	7	18	18	16	13	14	13	7	5	7
Drunk & on drugs	17	14	11	11	21	15	21	8	15	19
Neither drunk nor on drugs	15	31	11	26	25	20	20	21	19	20
Unknown	69	51	62	85	24	68	62	57	43	41
TOTAL	160	176	156	188	140	167	149	132	121	138

Annex: Statistical Notes

1.1 The figures within this statistical release provide details on cases of homicide. This includes all crimes of either murder or culpable homicide but excludes all cases of causing death by dangerous driving and causing death by careless driving whilst under the influence of drink or drugs. In 2010-11, Scottish police forces recorded a total of 17 crimes of causing death by dangerous driving and causing death by careless driving whilst under the influence of drink or drugs (source: Scottish Government, [Recorded Crime in Scotland](#) statistical bulletin series).

1.2 The Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007 came into force on 6 April 2008. This introduced a new offence for convicting an organisation where a gross failure in the way activities have been managed or organised, results in a person's death. This applies to a wide range of organisations across the public and private sectors. In 2010-11, there was a total of two cases of corporate homicide reported by the police in Scotland (source: Scottish Government, [Recorded Crime in Scotland](#) statistical bulletin series).

1.3 The summary figures presented in this statistical release derived from information provided by the eight Scottish police forces in respect of each case that is initially recorded as homicide. A single case of homicide is counted for each act of murder or culpable homicide, irrespective of the number of perpetrators or victims.

1.4 A homicide case is included against the year in which it is recorded by the police. This is not necessarily the year in which the crime took place, the year in which the accused is brought to trial for the crime, or the year in which the case is finally disposed of by the courts.

1.5 Where more than one person is accused of committing a homicide, the main accused is taken as the person who received the severest penalty. If more than one possible main accused is identified, then the first person recorded on the statistical return that is submitted annually by the police forces is selected. Similarly, if a person is accused of killing more than one victim, the main victim is the person for whom the accused received the severest penalty. Where more than one possible main victim can be identified, then the first person recorded on the statistical return is selected as the main victim.

1.6 The figures provided in this statistical release are as known to the Scottish Government in December 2011. The initial classification of a case as murder or culpable homicide is made by the police. This classification may be altered as a result of decisions taken during the course of criminal proceedings. For example, it may be determined that a homicide did not take place if an accused person is found guilty of a lesser charge in court (such as serious assault); or where it has been concluded by the [Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service](#) (COPFS) that a victim actually committed suicide and that no further criminal proceedings are required. Hence, some cases initially classified as homicide will, on the basis of criminal proceedings, no longer be classified as such at a later date. For this reason, and as a result of continual data checking, trend data may differ slightly from year-to-year. In addition, late data returns may occasionally be submitted by police forces which will result in revisions to the next issue of this statistical release

1.7 When considering the relationship of the main accused person to the victim, the term "partner or ex-partner" includes: spouse, separated or divorced spouse, cohabitee, lover, boy/girlfriend and ex-boy/girlfriend. Prior to 2000-01, this category did not

necessarily include ex-boy/girlfriend as these were occasionally recorded as “acquaintances”.

1.8 The motive behind committing a homicide is as determined by the police. For simplicity of presentation, only one motive for killing is selected for each accused person. However, for homicides recorded before 2000, information was collected on up to two motives. Where more than one motive was provided, the first one was selected as the main motive. Similarly, only one method of killing has been selected for each victim. The main method is taken to be the most serious of those methods recorded. Methods of killing have been ranked in the following order of priority: shooting, sharp instrument, blunt instrument, hitting and kicking, strangulation/asphyxiation, drowning, fire, poisoning and other/unknown. The term “sharp instrument” includes knives, broken bottles, swords, sharpened screwdrivers and any other pointed or edged weapons. The main method of “poisoning” includes the use of drugs, gas and carbon monoxide poisoning.

1.9 It has not been possible to carry out the matching of homicide police returns with court proceedings data since 2006-07 due to data matching issues which have been identified. Consequently, there may be a small overcount of the number of cases currently recorded as homicide as the classification of some cases could have altered as a result of decisions taken during the course of criminal proceedings. This area of work is currently being investigated by Justice Analytical Services and data users will be notified of any resulting outcomes through [ScotStat](#).

1.10 Population data are derived from relevant mid-year population estimates prepared by the General Register Office for Scotland: <http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/theme/population/estimates/mid-year/index.html>

1.11 Only a limited selection of tables are included in this statistical release. However, further analysis of homicide statistics can be supplied upon request. This includes available information relating to a different time period than that covered in this statistical release. In certain cases, a fee may be charged for additional information. For details of what can be provided, please telephone Justice Analytical Services on 0131 244 2635 or e-mail JusticeStatistics@scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

1.12 The following symbol is used throughout the tables in this statistical release:
– = nil

1.13 Under the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, the estimated costs of responding to statistical surveys and data collection are to be published. The estimated cost of compliance for supplying and validating the data for this statistical release is £300 based upon information provided by six of the eight Scottish police forces. Details of the calculation methodology are available on the Scottish Government Crime and Justice website at:
www.Scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/costcalculation

A NATIONAL STATISTICS PUBLICATION FOR SCOTLAND

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Complaints and suggestions

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