

Statistical Bulletin

Crime and Justice Series

HOMICIDE IN SCOTLAND, 2009-10 13 December 2010



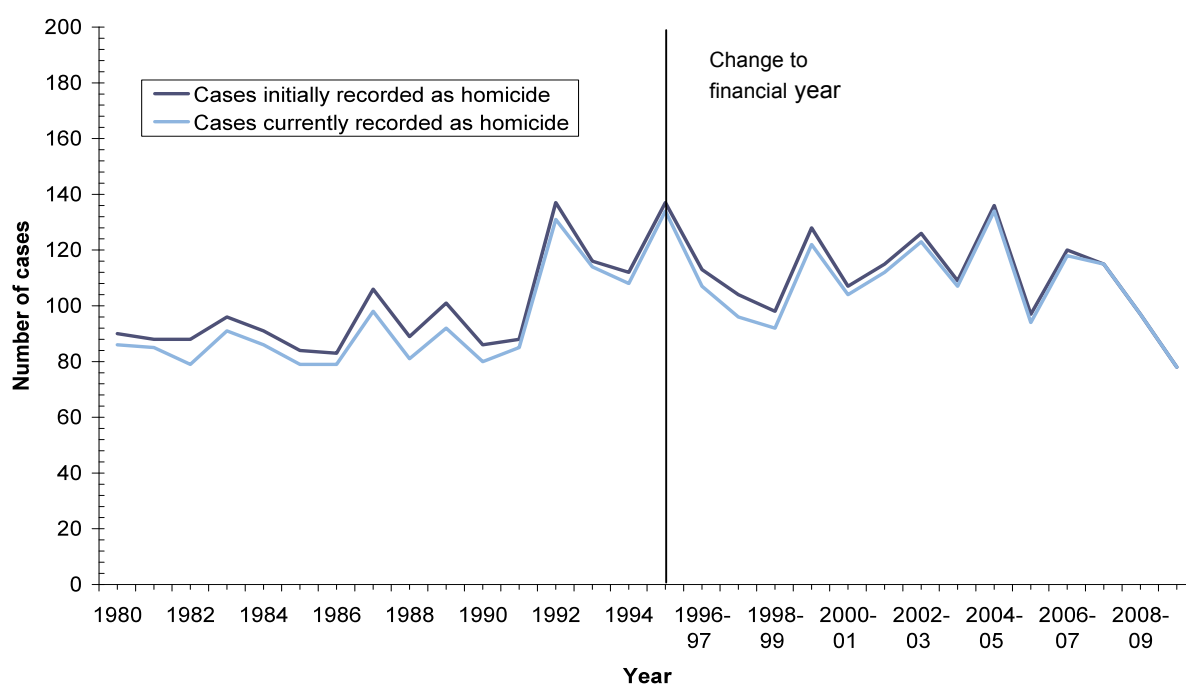
1. Introduction

This bulletin is part of a series of bulletins produced by the Scottish Government on the criminal justice system. It presents statistics on the crimes of homicides recorded by the police in Scotland in the period 2000-01 to 2009-10, incorporating information as known at 13 December 2010. The bulletin includes all crimes of murder and culpable homicide but excludes cases of causing death by dangerous driving and causing death by careless driving while under the influence of drink or drugs.

Statistics are firstly presented on the number of homicide cases recorded in Scotland, whereby a single case of homicide is counted for each incident involving murder or culpable homicide, irrespective of the number of victims or accused. Victim and perpetrator data is then provided, followed by the circumstances associated with the homicide. Additional details relating to the method, motive and relationship between the victim and the accused are also shown.

Definitions and further background information on the data presented in this bulletin are given in the [Annex](#).

Chart 1 Cases initially and currently recorded as homicide by the police, Scotland, 1980-1995 then 1995-96 to 2009-10¹



1. See Annex 5.6 for an explanation of the difference between cases initially and currently recorded as homicide.

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2. Main Points

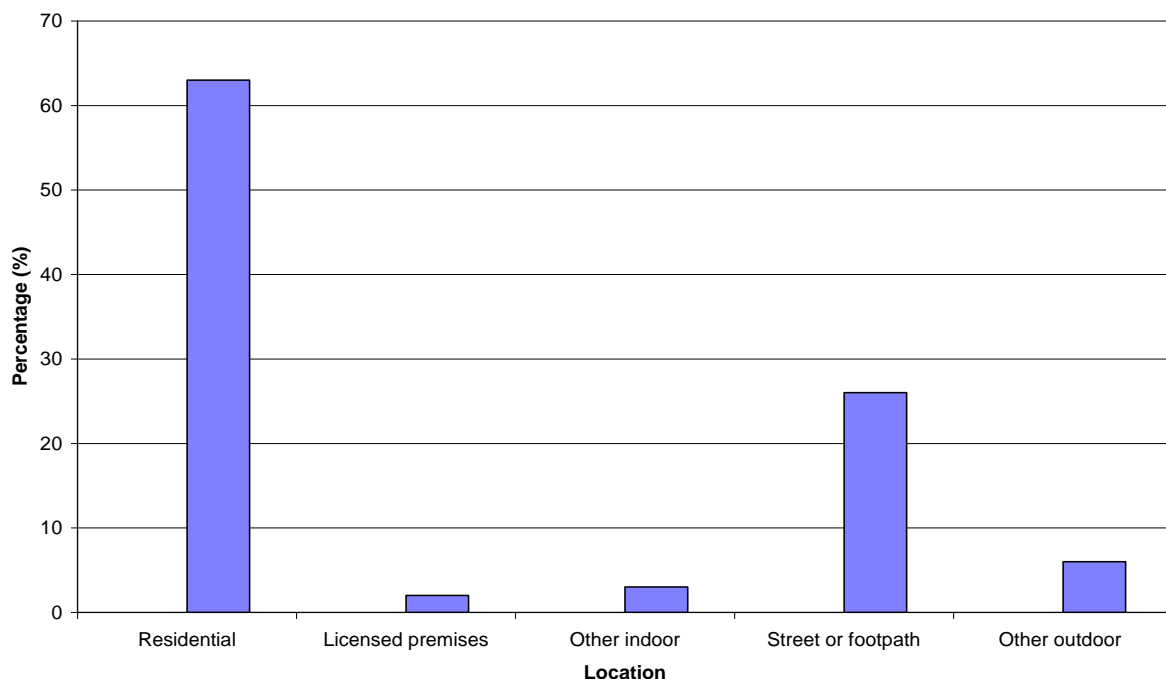
- In 2009-10, Scottish police forces recorded 78 cases of homicide (as at 13 December 2010), a decrease of 20 per cent from the figure recorded in 2008-09 (97 cases). This is the lowest number of cases recorded in the 10 year period covered by this bulletin. ([Table 1](#))
- The 78 cases of homicide in 2009-10 involved 79 victims, 20 fewer victims than in 2008-09. This represented a rate of 15 victims per million population in Scotland, the lowest rate recorded in the 10 year period covered by this bulletin. ([Table 1](#))
- Sixty-six per cent (52) of victims were male, with the overall homicide rate for males (21 victims per million population) more than twice the rate for females (10 victims per million population). ([Table 5](#))
- Of the 78 homicide cases recorded in 2009-10, 118 perpetrators had been identified as at 13 December 2010. This is 11 per cent less than in 2008-09. Eighty-four per cent (99) of persons accused of homicide in 2009-10 were male. ([Table 6](#))
- As in previous years, young males were the most likely to be accused in homicide cases. The accused rate per million population was nearly 6 times greater for 16 to 20 year old males than the national average. ([Table 6](#))
- The most common method of killing in each of the last 10 years was with a sharp instrument. In 2009-10, this method was the main method of killing of 35 homicide victims (44 per cent) and accounted for over three times as many homicides as the second most common method of killing. ([Table 7](#))
- For 78 per cent (61) of homicide victims in 2009-10, the main accused was known to them either as an acquaintance (53 per cent), a relative (9 per cent) or a partner (17 per cent). ([Table 8](#))
- Nearly half (49 per cent) of the 118 persons accused of homicide in 2009-10 were reported to have been drunk and/or under the influence of drugs at the time; 33 per cent (39) were drunk, 4 per cent (5) were on drugs and 12 per cent (14) were on both drunk and drugs. In 35 per cent of homicide cases, it was not known if the accused was drunk or under the influence of drugs. ([Table 12](#))
- In 2009-10, 43 of the 78 recorded homicide cases took place in the Strathclyde police force area (55 per cent of the total). There was a decrease in the number of homicide cases recorded in 5 out of the 8 police force areas between 2008-09 and 2009-10. Lothian and Borders increased from 7 to 12 recorded homicide cases, whilst the number of cases in Fife and Tayside remained constant across the two-year period. ([Table 2](#))

3. Commentary

Homicide cases (Table 1, Table 2, Table 3, Table 4, Chart 2, Chart 3 and Chart 4)

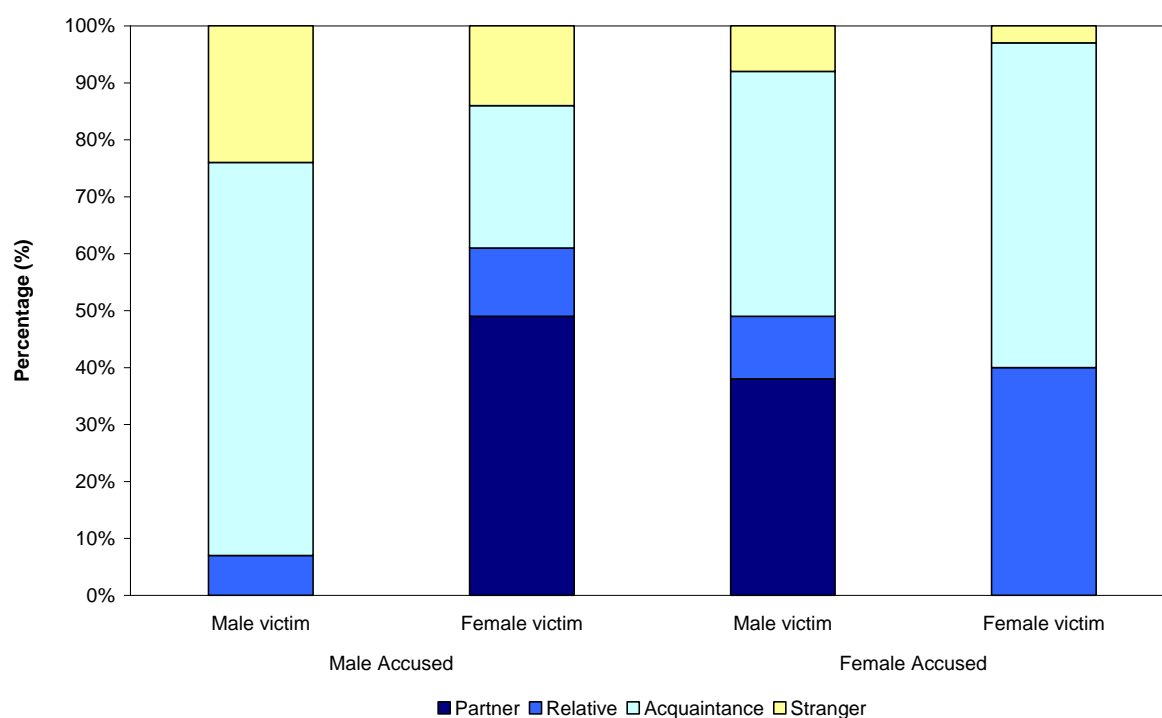
- **Statistics quoted in this section refer to cases currently recorded as homicide (as at 13 December 2010). A case of homicide refers to one incident and may involve more than one victim and/or accused person.**
- In 2009-10, the police recorded 78 cases of homicide, a decrease of 20 per cent from 2008-09 (97 cases). This is the lowest number of cases recorded in the 10 year period covered by this bulletin.
- Homicide cases involving more than one victim remain rare. There was only one such case in 2009-10, which is similar to the position in previous years. Twenty five (32 per cent) of the homicide cases recorded in 2009-10 involved more than one accused person. There was a total of 118 known accused persons connected with the 78 recorded homicide cases.
- In the Strathclyde police force area, which contained 43 per cent of the estimated population of Scotland in 2009, there were 43 recorded homicide cases in 2009-10 (55 per cent of the total). There was a decrease in the number of homicide cases recorded in 5 out of the 8 police force areas between 2008-09 and 2009-10. Lothian and Borders increased from 7 to 12 recorded homicide cases, whilst the number of cases in Fife and Tayside remained constant across the two-year period. (See [Annex 5.11](#))
- In 2009-10, the most common location for homicides to occur was within a dwelling (60 per cent of all cases), followed by a street or footpath (28 per cent). This pattern has remained consistent over the 10 year period covered by this bulletin. Chart 2 shows the distribution of homicide cases by location between 2000-01 to 2009-10.

Chart 2 Location of homicide cases (where known), 2000-01 to 2009-10



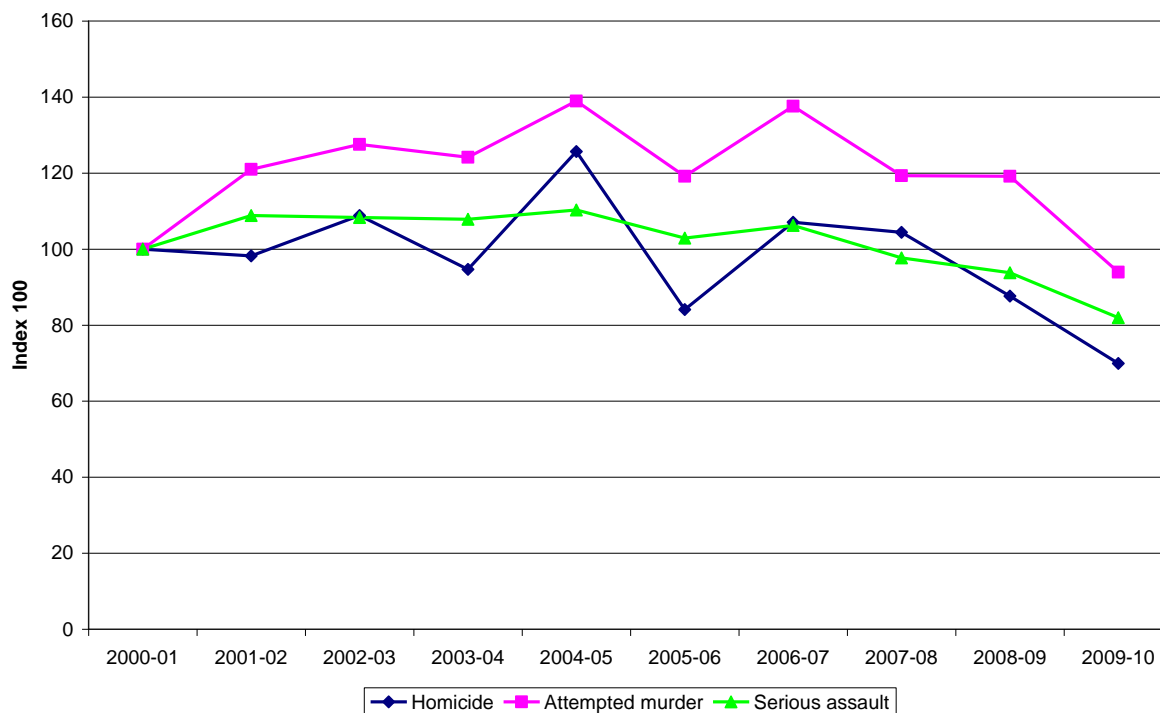
- The majority (74 per cent) of solved homicide cases recorded between 2000-01 and 2009-10 involved males killing males. Cases where the main accused and main victim were both female amounted to just two per cent of the total number of homicide cases recorded in this period.
- Chart 3 shows a breakdown of the relationship (where known) between the main accused and main victim. In the majority (69 per cent) of cases where a male was accused of killing another male, the victim and accused were acquaintances. In 38 per cent of cases where a female was accused of killing a male, the accused and victim were partners. This was also the same relationship in 49 per cent of cases where a male was accused of killing a female.

Chart 3 Relationship between main accused and main victim (where known), 2000-01 to 2009-10



- Homicide cases recorded by the police make up only a very small proportion of all recorded non-sexual violent crime; 0.1 per cent in 2009-10. This has remained consistent over the 10 year period covered by this bulletin. The trend in the number of recorded homicides followed a roughly similar pattern to trends for the number of recorded attempted murders and serious assaults in 2009-10.

Chart 4 Trends in selected non-sexual violent crimes¹, 2000-01 to 2009-10 (index 2000-01 = 100)



1. The homicide figures provided in this chart were taken from aggregate recorded crime statistics recorded by the police. Due to slight differences in the timing and methods of collection, the aggregated crime figures for homicide may differ slightly from the figures given elsewhere in this bulletin (which are derived from individual returns made in respect of each homicide).

Victims of homicide (Table 5)

- In total, there were 79 victims in the 78 homicide cases recorded in 2009-10, 20 fewer victims than in 2008-09. This represented a rate of 15 victims per million population in Scotland, the lowest rate recorded in the 10 year period covered by this bulletin.
- In 2009-10, 66 per cent (52) of homicide victims were male. The overall homicide rate for males (21 victims per million population) was more than twice the rate for females (10 victims per million population). The highest homicide rates recorded in 2009-10 for males were in the 21 to 30 and 31 to 50 age groups (45 and 33 victims per million population respectively). The highest rates for females was for the 16 to 20 and 31 to 50 age group (18 and 17 per million population respectively).

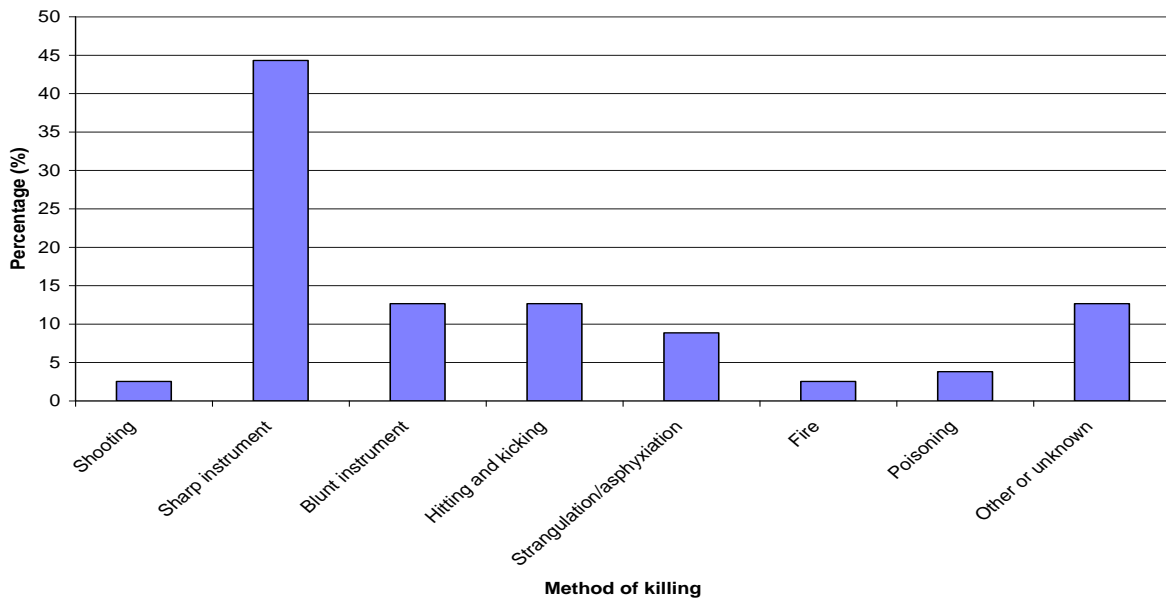
Persons accused of homicide (Table 6)

- Of the 78 homicide cases recorded in 2009-10, 118 perpetrators had been identified as at 13 December 2010, 14 fewer (11 per cent) than in 2008-09. The majority of accused persons in 2009-10 were male (84 per cent). However this is the lowest recorded proportion of male perpetrators in the 10 years covered by this bulletin.
- In 2009-10, the total number of individuals accused of homicide equated to 23 per million population. This rate was highest for males aged 16 to 20 years (135 per million population) followed by males aged 21 to 30 years (107 per million population). The highest rate for females related to those aged 16 to 20 years (31 per million population), although it should be noted that the rates for females are based on relatively small numbers.

Method ([Table 7](#) and [Chart 5](#))

- The most common method of killing in each of the last 10 years was with a sharp instrument. In 2009-10, this method was used in the homicide of 35 victims (44 per cent). Whilst this figure is down from 58 per cent in 2008-09, it still represents over three times as many homicides as the next most common method. For male victims, the next most common method of killing was hitting and kicking (15 per cent of victims), followed by the use of a blunt instrument (13 per cent). The second most common method of killing for female victims was strangulation/asphyxiation (26 per cent).

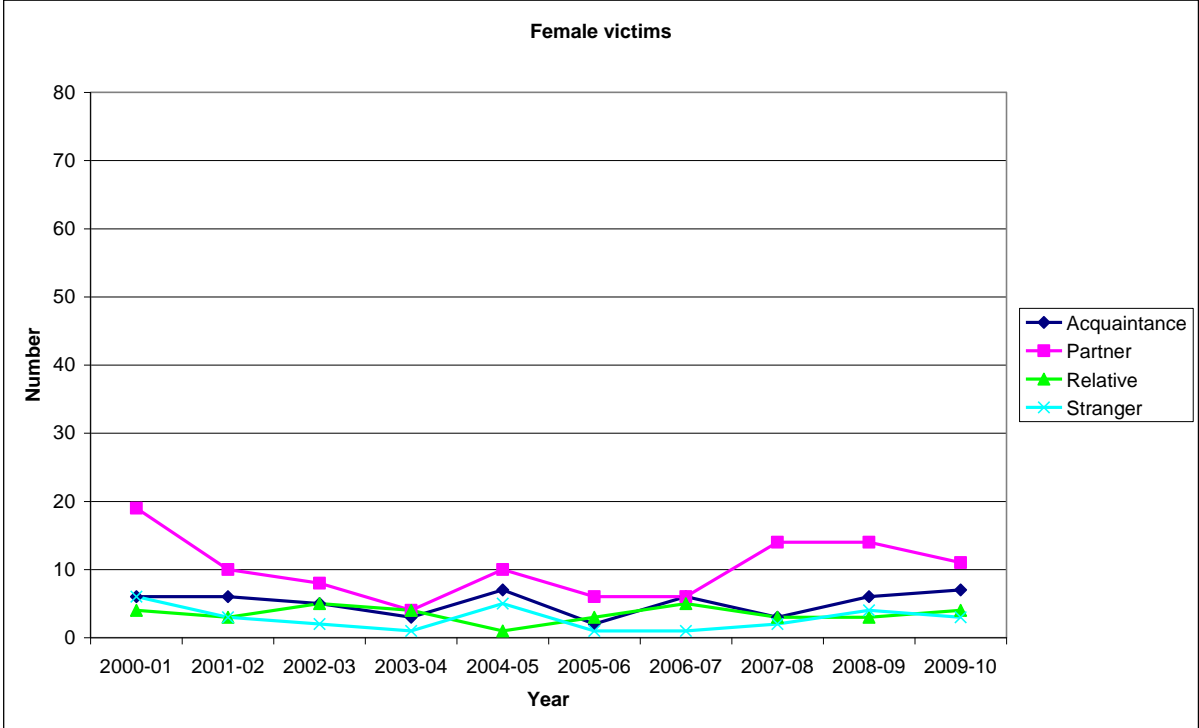
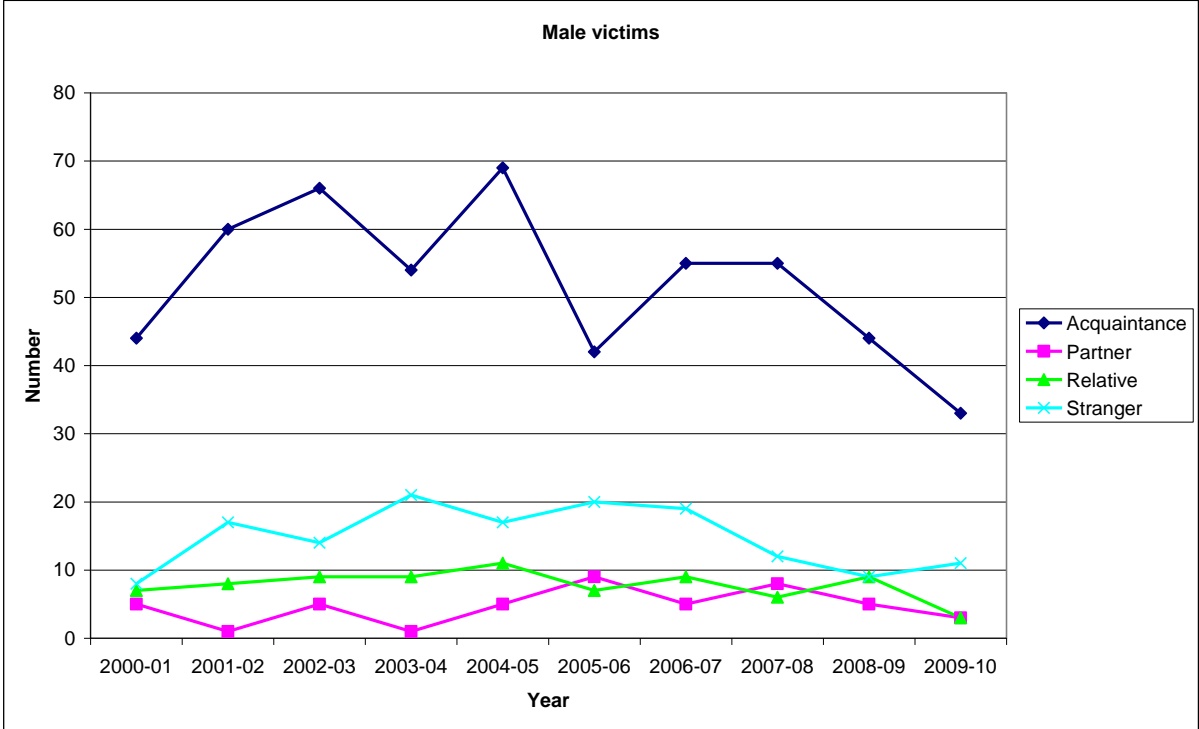
Chart 5 Victims of homicide by main method of killing, 2009-10



Relationship of main accused to victim ([Table 8](#), [Table 9](#) and [Chart 6](#))

- For 78 per cent (61) of the homicide victims recorded in 2009-10, the main accused was known to them either as an acquaintance (53 per cent), a relative (9 per cent) or a partner (17 per cent). Fifteen (19 per cent) victims were killed by a stranger. For the remaining three per cent of victims, the relationship to the main accused was unknown.
- Chart 6 presents the trends over the last 10 years in the number of homicides for male and female victims by their relationship to the main accused. The highest number of male victims was consistently for those killed by an acquaintance. For female victims the highest number were generally killed by a partner. The large number of male victims killed by acquaintances largely drives the fluctuations in the overall number of homicides. With the exception of female victims killed by a partner in 2000-01, the number of all other types of homicides have remained relatively stable, and low, throughout the 2000-01 to 2009-10 period.

Chart 6 Victims of homicide by gender and relationship to main accused (where known), 2000-01 to 2009-10



- A total of 69 children under the age of 16 years were victims of homicide between 2000-01 and 2009-10. Of these, 34 (49 per cent) were killed by one of their parents. For the 27 victims aged under one year old where the perpetrator was known, the main accused was either a parent (78 per cent), other relative (11 per cent) or unknown (11 per cent).

- For homicides recorded in the last ten years, 41 per cent of the female victims aged between 16 and 70 were killed by their partner, 21 per cent were killed by an acquaintance and 8 per cent were killed by a stranger. For male victims aged 16 to 70, only 6 per cent were killed by their partner. The majority (60 per cent) of male victims aged 16 to 70 were killed by an acquaintance and 16 per cent were killed by a stranger.
- Of the 34 older people (aged 70 and over) who were victims of homicide in the 10 years covered by this bulletin, 21 were female and 13 were male. Thirty-eight per cent of these (13 victims) were killed by a stranger, which is over double the percentage for younger adults. A total of 7 older people were killed by their son or daughter, 5 by a partner and 7 by someone else known to them.

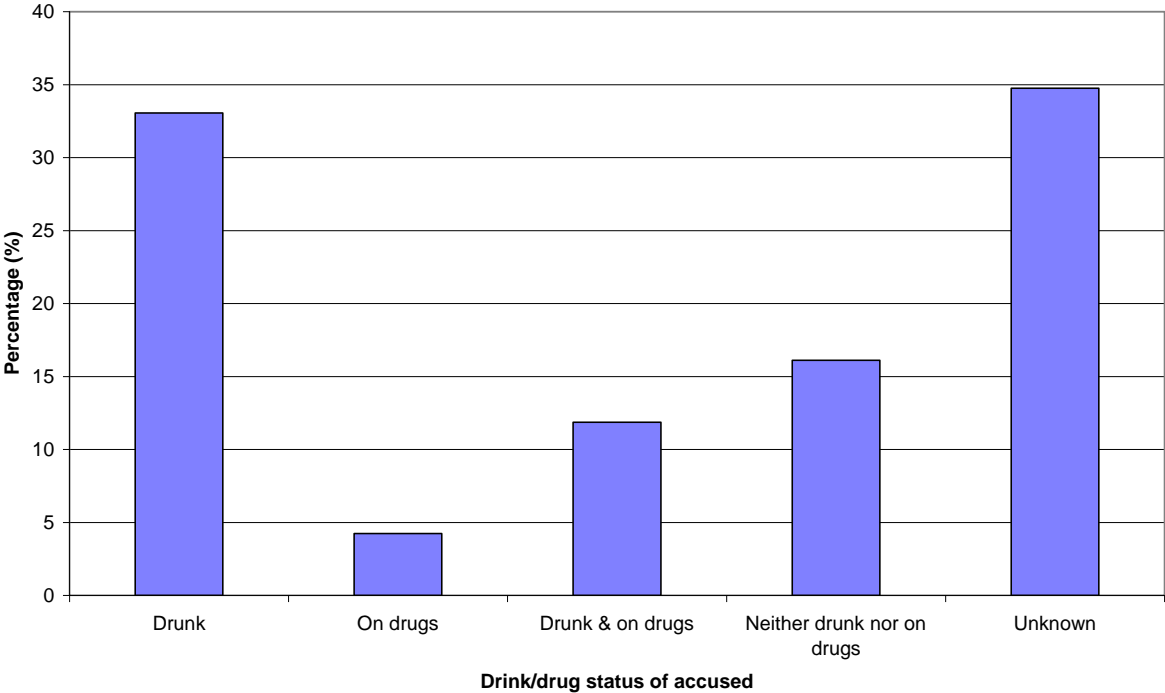
Main motive ([Table 10](#) and [Table 11](#))

- The most common reasons recorded for committing homicide in the 10 year period 2000-01 to 2009-10 were fight/quarrel and rage/fury, with around half of all victims killed in such circumstances. In 2009-10, this figure was 50 per cent (39). The next most common known motive amongst males was feud, faction rivalry which was the motive in 16 per cent (8) of male homicides in 2009-10.
- The most common set of circumstances in which females become victims of homicide are in a dwelling, in a rage/fight with a partner. Location is less of a factor for male victims, whose killing more typically is a result of a rage/fight with an acquaintance. Three quarters (77 per cent) of all female victims in the period 2000-01 to 2009-10 were killed in dwellings, compared with 51 per cent of males.
- Seven victims (9 per cent of all victims) were reported to have been killed in drug-related homicide cases in 2009-10. In this context, “drug-related” is defined as a homicide motivated by a need to obtain drugs or money for drugs, a homicide of a consumer or supplier of drugs or a homicide as a consequence of rivalry within the drugs trade/ between users and dealers. All seven victims were male. One of the homicides recorded in 2009-10 was reported to have had a homophobic motivation.

Drink/drug status ([Table 12](#), [Table 13](#) and [Chart 7](#))

- Nearly half (49 per cent) of the total of 118 persons accused in homicide cases in 2009-10 were reported to have been drunk and/or under the influence of drugs at the time. Of these, 33 per cent (39) were drunk, 4 per cent (5) on drugs and 12 per cent (14) were both drunk and on drugs. This represents 75 per cent (58) of accused persons for which the drink/drug status was known. The drink/drug status of the accused was unknown for 35 per cent (41) of accused. Only 16 per cent (19) of accused were reported to have been neither drunk nor under the influence of drugs.
- In 74 per cent of cases where the main accused was drunk and/or on drugs, the victim was also known to have been drunk and/or on drugs. Where the main motive for a homicide was a rage or fight, 56 per cent of the main accused for whom the drink/drug status was known were drunk and/or under the influence of drugs. In 73 per cent of these cases the victim was also drunk and/or on drugs at the time the homicide took place.

Chart 7 Drink/drug status of main accused in homicide cases, 2009-10



International comparisons of homicide rate (Table 14)

- Care must be taken in making international comparisons between crime statistics due to different counting rules and definitions, e.g. some countries include attempted murder in their homicide figures. However, it is of interest to observe how Scotland’s homicide rate compares with those in other countries. Homicide rates for European Union states are shown in Table 14 and are taken from Crime and Criminal Justice Statistics published by Eurostat. Scotland’s average homicide rate between 2006 and 2008 was 2.14 victims per 100,000 population. This was higher than the corresponding rates in England and Wales (1.35) and in Northern Ireland (1.52).

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Table 1. Homicide cases by number of victims and accused¹, Scotland, 2000-01 to 2009-10

Homicide victims and accused persons	Number									
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Total number of cases	104	112	123	107	134	94	118	115	97	78
Cases by number of victims:										
1	102	111	122	106	132	94	117	115	95	77
2	1	1	-	1	1	-	1	-	2	1
3	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Total number of victims	107	113	125	108	137	94	119	115	99	79
Total number of victims per million population²	21	22	25	21	27	18	23	22	19	15
Cases by number of accused:										
1	83	80	89	72	92	67	90	88	67	52
2	17	20	16	25	27	12	13	16	19	19
3	3	7	8	6	8	6	7	5	5	3
4	1	3	4	-	3	2	5	2	3	1
5	-	1	3	3	1	1	2	-	-	1
6	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	1	-	-
7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
unsolved	-	1	3	1	3	3	1	-	-	-
Total number of accused	130	158	176	155	187	140	167	149	132	118

1. Figures correct at 13th December 2010.

2. See Annex 5.11.

Table 2. Homicide cases by Police Force Area¹, Scotland, 2000-01 to 2009-10

Police Force Area (and selected councils)	Number									
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Central	4	5	6	1	6	2	3	3	5	3
Dumfries and Galloway	5	5	-	3	3	3	-	1	2	-
Fife	3	2	2	3	3	2	5	7	5	5
Grampian	12	3	9	6	9	3	9	6	8	5
Aberdeen City	4	1	5	4	5	2	5	4	6	3
Lothian and Borders	11	15	14	16	22	10	16	19	7	12
City of Edinburgh	5	8	9	6	11	9	11	11	4	7
Northern	3	4	5	1	5	4	5	6	4	3
Strathclyde	62	71	78	73	82	62	76	66	59	43
Glasgow City	30	34	40	33	39	32	33	30	24	20
Tayside	4	7	9	4	4	8	4	7	7	7
Dundee City	2	5	6	2	2	6	3	2	3	3
SCOTLAND	104	112	123	107	134	94	118	115	97	78

1. Figures correct at 13th December 2010.

Table 3. Selected crimes of violence recorded by the police¹, Scotland, 2000-01 to 2009-10

Crime/Offence	Number & Percentage									
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Homicide ¹	113	111	123	107	142	95	121	118	99	79
Attempted Murder	596	721	760	740	828	710	820	711	710	560
Sexual assault	690	788	924	1,037	1,109	1,161	1,123	1,053	963	996
Abduction	273	325	287	292	353	347	343	284	319	269
Serious Assault	6,143	6,685	6,654	6,625	6,775	6,320	6,525	6,000	5,762	5,034
Robbery	4,293	4,592	4,636	4,161	3,736	3,553	3,578	3,064	2,963	2,496
Minor Assault	54,057	55,392	54,956	57,355	73,711	72,281	78,167	73,523	74,130	72,212
Total violent crime	66,165	68,614	68,340	70,317	86,654	84,467	90,677	84,753	84,946	81,646
Homicide as a percentage of all violent crime	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1

1. The homicide figures provided in this table were taken from aggregate recorded crime statistics reported by the police. Due to slight differences in the timing and methods of collection, the aggregated crime figures for homicide may differ slightly from the figures given elsewhere in this bulletin (which are derived from individual returns made in respect of each homicide).

Table 4. Homicide cases by location¹, Scotland, 2000-01 to 2009-10

Location	Number									
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Residential	69	74	80	73	78	47	78	73	59	50
House, dwelling, etc.	63	68	73	62	69	44	73	63	51	47
Garden of house	2	1	1	3	2	1	1	3	3	1
Close, common stair	2	4	3	6	5	1	3	5	3	2
Hostel, hotel, lodging house	2	1	3	2	2	1	1	2	2	-
Public place indoors	5	4	5	8	4	6	8	6	1	3
Licensed premises (bar, club, etc.)	4	1	2	4	2	2	2	2	-	1
Other commercial premises	-	2	1	2	2	4	3	3	1	2
School, hospital, church	-	-	1	2	-	-	2	-	-	-
Transport (car, train, taxi, etc.)	1	1	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Public place outdoors	30	32	37	25	50	39	32	34	37	25
Street or footpath	27	23	30	21	44	32	28	26	27	22
Open outdoor area	3	9	7	4	6	7	4	8	10	3
Unknown	-	2	1	1	2	2	-	2	-	-
TOTAL	104	112	123	107	134	94	118	115	97	78

1. Figures correct at 13th December 2010.

Table 5. Homicide victims by age and gender: the number of victims and rates per million population^{1,2}, Scotland, 2000-01 to 2009-10

Age and gender of victim	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
	Number:									
All victims	107	113	125	108	137	94	119	115	99	79
Under 1 year	4	4	3	4	4	3	1	2	2	-
1 to 4	2	2	3	-	4	-	1	2	1	-
5 to 15	4	1	5	4	4	1	3	2	2	1
16 to 20	14	13	13	9	12	11	14	14	10	8
21 to 30	17	23	31	28	41	18	35	24	24	18
31 to 50	51	46	48	46	48	48	44	50	47	36
51 to 70	9	19	16	15	21	11	18	18	10	15
71 and over	6	5	6	2	3	2	3	3	3	1
Male victims	71	91	105	94	110	81	99	91	71	52
Under 1 year	2	2	2	2	4	1	-	-	1	-
1 to 4	1	1	1	-	3	-	1	1	1	-
5 to 15	3	1	3	3	3	1	2	1	2	-
16 to 20	8	12	10	7	9	9	14	12	6	5
21 to 30	16	19	28	27	36	14	30	20	21	16
31 to 50	35	36	44	42	40	44	36	41	33	23
51 to 70	4	17	12	13	15	11	15	15	7	8
71 and over	2	3	5	-	-	1	1	1	-	-
Female victims	36	22	20	14	27	13	20	24	28	27
Under 1 year	2	2	1	2	-	2	1	2	1	-
1 to 4	1	1	2	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
5 to 15	1	-	2	1	1	-	1	1	-	1
16 to 20	6	1	3	2	3	2	-	2	4	3
21 to 30	1	4	3	1	5	4	5	4	3	2
31 to 50	16	10	4	4	8	4	8	9	14	13
51 to 70	5	2	4	2	6	-	3	3	3	7
71 and over	4	2	1	2	3	1	2	2	3	1
	Rate per million population:									
All victims	21	22	25	21	27	18	23	22	19	15
Under 1 year	75	77	59	77	75	55	18	35	34	-
1 to 4	9	9	14	-	19	-	5	9	4	-
5 to 15	6	1	7	6	6	2	5	3	3	2
16 to 20	44	41	41	28	37	33	42	42	30	24
21 to 30	26	36	50	46	67	29	55	36	35	26
31 to 50	34	31	32	31	32	32	29	34	32	25
51 to 70	8	17	14	13	18	9	15	15	8	12
71 and over	12	10	11	4	6	4	5	5	5	2
Male victims	29	37	43	39	45	33	40	37	28	21
Under 1 year	73	76	77	76	145	36	-	-	33	-
1 to 4	8	9	9	-	28	-	9	9	9	-
5 to 15	8	3	9	9	9	3	6	3	6	-
16 to 20	50	74	62	43	54	53	82	70	35	29
21 to 30	51	61	91	88	118	45	93	60	61	45
31 to 50	48	49	60	58	55	61	50	57	46	33
51 to 70	8	32	22	24	27	20	26	26	12	14
71 and over	10	15	25	-	-	5	5	5	-	-
Female victims	14	8	8	5	10	5	8	9	10	10
Under 1 year	77	78	40	79	-	76	37	72	34	-
1 to 4	9	9	19	-	10	-	-	9	-	-
5 to 15	3	-	6	3	3	-	3	3	-	3
16 to 20	38	6	19	13	19	12	-	12	25	18
21 to 30	3	12	10	3	16	13	16	12	9	6
31 to 50	21	13	5	5	10	5	10	12	18	17
51 to 70	9	3	7	3	10	-	5	5	5	11
71 and over	12	6	3	6	9	3	6	6	9	3

1. Figures correct at 13th December 2010.

2. See Annex 5.11.

Table 6. Persons accused in homicide cases by age and gender: the number of persons accused and rates per million population^{1,2}, Scotland, 2000-01 to 2009-10

Age and gender of accused	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
	Number:									
All accused	130	158	176	155	187	140	167	149	132	118
Under 16	5	4	8	4	8	4	7	3	4	5
16 to 20	25	31	39	29	34	45	49	32	30	27
21 to 30	41	56	52	69	71	44	59	50	43	43
31 to 50	48	61	63	48	62	43	41	55	48	29
51 and over	11	6	14	5	12	4	11	9	7	13
Male accused	117	140	155	146	168	122	154	131	114	99
Under 16	4	3	7	4	8	4	7	3	4	5
16 to 20	23	26	34	26	32	43	48	26	26	23
21 to 30	37	51	49	65	64	35	53	44	40	38
31 to 50	43	54	53	46	54	37	36	50	37	22
51 and over	10	6	12	5	10	3	10	8	7	11
Female accused	13	18	21	9	19	18	13	18	18	19
Under 16	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16 to 20	2	5	5	3	2	2	1	6	4	5
21 to 30	4	5	3	4	7	9	6	6	3	5
31 to 50	5	7	10	2	8	6	5	5	11	7
51 and over	1	-	2	-	2	1	1	1	-	2
	Rate per million population:									
All accused	26	31	35	31	37	27	33	29	26	23
Under 16	5	4	8	4	9	4	8	3	4	5
16 to 20	78	97	122	90	103	135	147	96	90	81
21 to 30	64	88	83	112	116	71	92	76	63	62
31 to 50	32	41	42	32	41	29	27	37	33	20
51 and over	7	4	8	3	7	2	6	5	4	7
Male accused	48	58	64	60	69	50	62	53	46	39
Under 16	8	6	14	8	17	8	15	6	9	11
16 to 20	143	160	210	159	191	253	282	152	151	135
21 to 30	117	164	159	213	209	113	165	133	117	107
31 to 50	59	74	73	63	74	51	50	70	52	31
51 and over	14	8	16	7	13	4	13	10	9	13
Female accused	5	7	8	3	7	7	5	7	7	7
Under 16	2	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16 to 20	13	32	32	19	12	12	6	37	25	31
21 to 30	12	15	10	13	23	29	19	18	9	15
31 to 50	7	9	13	3	10	8	6	6	14	9
51 and over	1	-	2	-	2	1	1	1	-	2

1. Figures correct at 13th December 2010.

2. See Annex 5.11.

Table 7. Victims of homicide by gender and main method of killing¹, Scotland, 2000-01 to 2009-10

Gender of victim and main method of killing ²	Number									
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
All victims	107	113	125	108	137	94	119	115	99	79
Shooting	3	5	3	2	8	8	8	4	2	2
Sharp instrument	48	56	60	55	72	34	54	55	57	35
Blunt instrument	11	9	15	5	8	4	15	8	8	10
Hitting and kicking	17	18	17	22	14	24	16	15	10	10
Strangulation/asphyxiation	9	9	7	5	10	4	3	6	5	7
Drowning	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	1	-
Fire	3	3	-	3	1	3	3	1	3	2
Poisoning	2	3	4	7	12	9	13	12	8	3
Other or unknown	13	10	19	9	11	8	7	12	5	10
Male victims	71	91	105	94	110	81	99	91	71	52
Shooting	3	5	3	1	8	7	8	4	2	1
Sharp instrument	37	49	55	51	61	31	46	49	49	27
Blunt instrument	8	7	12	5	7	4	11	5	4	7
Hitting and kicking	14	16	15	22	11	22	15	12	5	8
Strangulation/asphyxiation	3	2	4	3	5	3	1	2	1	-
Drowning	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
Fire	-	2	-	2	1	3	2	1	1	1
Poisoning	-	3	4	7	9	8	11	10	6	2
Other or unknown	6	7	12	3	7	3	5	7	3	6
Female victims	36	22	20	14	27	13	20	24	28	27
Shooting	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1
Sharp instrument	11	7	5	4	11	3	8	6	8	8
Blunt instrument	3	2	3	-	1	-	4	3	4	3
Hitting and kicking	3	2	2	-	3	2	1	3	5	2
Strangulation/asphyxiation	6	7	3	2	5	1	2	4	4	7
Drowning	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Fire	3	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	2	1
Poisoning	2	-	-	-	3	1	2	2	2	1
Other or unknown	7	2	7	6	4	5	2	5	2	4

1. Figures correct at 13th December 2010.

2. See Annex 5.10.

Table 8. Victims of homicide by gender and relationship to main accused¹, Scotland, 2000-01 to 2009-10

Gender of victim and relationship to main accused	Number									
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
All victims	107	113	125	108	137	94	119	115	99	79
All victims - solved cases	107	111	122	107	134	91	118	112	96	78
Son or daughter	2	1	3	6	1	5	5	5	1	4
Parent	5	5	6	3	6	2	2	2	6	-
Partner or ex-partner	24	12	13	5	14	16	11	22	18	13
Other relative	4	5	6	5	5	3	8	2	4	3
Acquaintance:										
Friend or social acquaintance	32	43	42	35	39	20	33	32	33	30
Business or criminal associate	4	5	5	5	5	3	3	4	-	1
Rival gang member	2	1	5	2	6	2	5	2	3	1
Other known person	12	18	19	15	26	19	19	21	16	9
Stranger:										
Victim known to accused	1	3	3	3	6	2	-	2	2	1
Victim unknown to accused	13	16	13	20	17	18	20	13	11	14
Unknown	8	2	7	8	9	1	12	7	2	2
Male victims - solved cases	71	89	102	93	107	79	98	89	68	51
Son or daughter	1	1	3	3	1	4	2	4	1	-
Parent	2	3	3	1	5	1	1	-	4	-
Partner or ex-partner	5	1	5	1	4	10	5	8	5	3
Other relative	4	4	5	5	5	2	7	2	4	3
Acquaintance:										
Friend or social acquaintance	27	38	39	35	33	19	30	30	27	25
Business or criminal associate	4	5	4	4	5	3	3	4	-	1
Rival gang member	2	1	5	2	6	2	5	2	3	1
Other known person	11	18	17	14	25	18	16	20	14	6
Stranger:										
Victim known to accused	1	2	3	3	5	2	-	2	2	1
Victim unknown to accused	7	14	11	18	13	17	19	11	7	11
Unknown	7	2	7	7	5	1	10	6	1	-
Female victims - solved cases	36	22	20	14	27	12	20	23	28	27
Son or daughter	1	-	-	3	-	1	3	1	-	4
Parent	3	2	3	2	1	1	1	2	2	-
Partner or ex-partner	19	11	8	4	10	6	6	14	13	10
Other relative	-	1	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Acquaintance:										
Friend or social acquaintance	5	5	3	-	6	1	3	2	6	5
Business or criminal associate	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rival gang member	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other known person	1	-	2	1	1	1	3	1	2	3
Stranger:										
Victim known to accused	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Victim unknown to accused	6	2	2	2	4	1	1	2	4	3
Unknown	1	-	-	1	4	-	2	1	1	2

1. Figures correct at 13th December 2010.

Table 9. Victims of homicide by age, gender and relationship to main accused¹, Scotland, 2000-01 to 2009-10

Age and gender of victim	Relationship of victim to main accused							Number
	Son/daughter	Parent	Partner/ex-partner	Other relative	Acquaintance	Stranger	Unknown	Total
All victims - solved cases	33	37	148	45	576	178	58	1,076
Under 1 year	-	21	-	3	-	-	3	27
1 to 4	-	8	-	1	5	1	-	15
5 to 15	-	5	1	2	9	8	2	27
16 to 20	-	1	11	2	72	26	6	118
21 to 30	-	2	27	12	153	45	14	253
31 to 50	11	-	81	20	251	61	27	451
51 to 70	15	-	23	5	80	24	4	151
71 and over	7	-	5	-	7	13	2	34
Male victims - solved cases	20	20	47	41	523	149	46	847
Under 1 year	-	10	-	1	-	-	3	14
1 to 4	-	5	-	-	4	-	-	9
5 to 15	-	3	-	2	8	6	-	19
16 to 20	-	1	1	2	60	23	5	92
21 to 30	-	1	12	11	144	43	12	223
31 to 50	8	-	28	20	231	52	22	361
51 to 70	11	-	6	5	72	19	3	116
71 and over	1	-	-	-	5	6	1	13
Female victims - solved cases	13	17	101	4	53	29	12	229
Under 1 year	-	11	-	2	-	-	-	13
1 to 4	-	3	-	1	1	1	-	6
5 to 15	-	2	1	-	1	2	2	8
16 to 20	-	-	10	-	12	3	1	26
21 to 30	-	1	13	3	9	2	2	30
31 to 50	-	3	53	-	20	9	5	90
51 to 70	4	-	17	-	8	5	1	35
71 and over	6	-	5	-	2	7	1	21

1. Figures correct at 13th December 2010.

Table 10. Victims of homicide by gender and main motive for killing¹, Scotland, 2000-01 to 2009-10

Gender of victim and main motive ²	Number									
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
All victims	107	113	125	108	137	94	119	115	99	79
All victims - solved cases	107	111	122	107	134	91	118	112	96	78
Rage, fury	19	21	19	20	22	9	13	22	9	13
Fight or quarrel	33	38	44	40	43	34	34	33	34	26
Jealousy	3	6	3	1	5	4	3	6	5	3
Sexual	-	2	1	2	1	2	3	1	3	4
Financial (theft or gain)	4	8	6	3	4	2	3	1	9	2
Feud, faction rivalry	13	8	13	8	15	11	14	8	7	8
Insanity	6	-	4	-	3	-	3	1	2	2
Contract killing	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Suicide pact or mercy killing	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	1	1	-
Other	7	6	13	16	14	11	15	20	7	6
Unknown	22	21	19	16	27	15	28	19	19	14
Male victims - solved cases	71	89	102	93	107	79	98	89	68	51
Rage, fury	12	18	15	17	17	8	11	18	5	7
Fight or quarrel	26	32	40	39	38	32	32	28	30	21
Jealousy	1	4	1	-	3	3	1	5	2	1
Sexual	-	1	1	2	1	1	-	-	2	2
Financial (theft or gain)	2	6	6	2	1	2	2	1	3	1
Feud, faction rivalry	13	7	13	7	14	10	14	8	7	8
Insanity	2	-	4	-	1	-	1	-	2	1
Contract killing	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Suicide pact or mercy killing	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	1	-
Other	4	5	10	12	12	7	13	15	5	4
Unknown	11	15	12	13	20	13	23	14	11	6
Female victims - solved cases	36	22	20	14	27	12	20	23	28	27
Rage, fury	7	3	4	3	5	1	2	4	4	6
Fight or quarrel	7	6	4	1	5	2	2	5	4	5
Jealousy	2	2	2	1	2	1	2	1	3	2
Sexual	-	1	-	-	-	1	3	1	1	2
Financial (theft or gain)	2	2	-	1	3	-	1	-	6	1
Feud, faction rivalry	-	1	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
Insanity	4	-	-	-	2	-	2	1	-	1
Contract killing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Suicide pact or mercy killing	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Other	3	1	3	4	2	4	2	5	2	2
Unknown	11	6	7	3	7	2	5	5	8	8

1. Figures correct at 13th December 2010.

2. See Annex 5.9.

Table 11. Victims of homicide by gender, relationship to main accused, main motive and location of killing¹, Scotland, 2000-01 to 2009-10

Gender of victim and relationship to main accused by location	Main motive of accused ²						Number
	Rage or fight	Jealousy or revenge/feud	Sexual	Financial	Insanity	Other or unknown	All motives
	All victims	526	144	18	43	21	
Male victims	446	122	10	27	11	249	865
Homicide in dwelling	229	37	7	16	8	147	444
Partner	30	3	2	-	-	11	46
Relative	28	6	1	-	5	20	60
Acquaintance	159	23	4	12	3	89	290
Stranger	10	4	-	4	-	4	22
Unknown	2	1	-	-	-	23	26
Homicide not in dwelling	217	84	3	11	3	100	418
Partner	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Relative	6	2	-	-	2	8	18
Acquaintance	127	65	1	3	-	36	232
Stranger	78	13	2	8	1	23	125
Unknown	6	4	-	-	-	32	42
Location unknown	-	1	-	-	-	2	3
Partner	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Relative	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acquaintance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stranger	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Female victims	80	22	8	16	10	95	231
Homicide in dwelling	68	16	4	9	8	72	177
Partner	45	12	-	2	3	26	88
Relative	12	-	1	1	4	16	34
Acquaintance	11	4	3	4	1	15	38
Stranger	-	-	-	2	-	5	7
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	10	10
Homicide not in dwelling	11	6	4	7	2	17	47
Partner	4	4	-	1	1	2	12
Relative	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Acquaintance	4	1	1	1	1	4	12
Stranger	3	1	3	5	-	8	20
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Location unknown	1	-	-	-	-	6	7
Partner	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Relative	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acquaintance	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Stranger	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Unknown	1	-	-	-	-	2	3

1. Figures correct at 13th December 2010.

2. See Annex 5.9.

Table 12. Persons accused in homicide cases by whether drunk and/or under the influence of drugs¹, Scotland, 2000-01 to 2009-10

Financial year / age and gender of accused	Drink and/or drug status of accused				Number
	Drunk	On drugs	Drunk & on drugs	Neither drunk nor on drugs	Unknown
2000-01	53	7	9	26	35
2001-02	52	7	17	15	67
2002-03	60	20	14	32	50
2003-04	54	18	11	11	61
2004-05	49	16	11	26	85
2005-06	57	13	21	25	24
2006-07	50	14	15	20	68
2007-08	33	13	21	20	62
2008-09	39	7	8	21	57
2009-10	39	5	14	19	41
2000-01 to 2009-10					
All accused	486	120	141	215	550
Under 16	13	1	2	14	22
16 to 20	120	17	38	40	127
21 to 30	142	61	55	68	202
31 to 50	169	39	46	74	170
51 and over	42	2	-	19	29
Male accused	434	96	124	192	500
Under 16	11	1	2	13	22
16 to 20	113	14	32	33	115
21 to 30	127	51	51	63	184
31 to 50	145	28	39	67	153
51 and over	38	2	-	16	26
Female accused	52	24	17	23	50
Under 16	2	-	-	1	-
16 to 20	7	3	6	7	12
21 to 30	15	10	4	5	18
31 to 50	24	11	7	7	17
51 and over	4	-	-	3	3

1. Figures correct at 13th December 2010

Table 13. Drink/drug status of homicide victims and accused by main motive¹, Scotland, 2000-01 to 2009-10

Drink/drug status of victims and accused	Main motive of accused ²						Number
	Rage or fight	Jealousy or revenge/feud	Sexual	Financial	Insanity	Other or unknown	All motives
All victims	39	11	3	2	2	22	79
Accused drunk	22	2	-	-	-	7	31
Victim drunk	16	1	-	-	-	6	23
Victim on drugs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Victim drunk and on drugs	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Victim neither drunk nor on drugs	2	-	-	-	-	1	3
Unknown	3	1	-	-	-	-	4
Accused on drugs	1	1	-	-	-	2	4
Victim drunk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Victim on drugs	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Victim drunk and on drugs	1	-	-	-	-	1	2
Victim neither drunk nor on drugs	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Accused drunk and on drugs	4	1	1	1	1	1	9
Victim drunk	1	-	-	1	-	-	2
Victim on drugs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Victim drunk and on drugs	1	1	1	-	1	1	5
Victim neither drunk nor on drugs	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Accused neither drunk nor on drugs	4	4	-	-	1	5	14
Victim drunk	1	1	-	-	-	1	3
Victim on drugs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Victim drunk and on drugs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Victim neither drunk nor on drugs	3	3	-	-	1	4	11
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unknown	8	3	2	1	-	7	21
Victim drunk	-	1	1	-	-	-	2
Victim on drugs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Victim drunk and on drugs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Victim neither drunk nor on drugs	-	-	1	-	-	2	3
Unknown	8	2	-	1	-	5	16

1. Figures correct at 13th December 2010.

2. See Annex 5.9.

Table 14. Comparison of homicide rates in selected countries and cities, 2006-08

EU Member States		Homicides per 100,000 population (average per year 2006-2008)
Country	City	
Scotland		2.14
	Edinburgh	1.86
England & Wales		1.35
	London	2.17
Northern Ireland		1.52
	Belfast	2.12
Austria		0.61
	Vienna	1.06
Belgium		1.97
	Brussels	3.20
Bulgaria		2.27
	Sofia	2.09
Germany		0.84
	Berlin	1.31
Ireland (Eire)		2.00
	Dublin	2.26
Italy		1.13
	Rome	1.20
France		1.37
	Paris	1.49
Denmark		1.22
	Copenhagen	1.58
Sweden		1.06
	Stockholm	n/a
Spain		1.02
	Madrid	1.30
Luxembourg		1.61
	Luxembourg	3.98
Netherlands		1.02
	Amsterdam	3.14
Greece		1.04
	Athens & Pireus	1.11
Portugal		1.46
	Lisbon	0.64
Finland		2.34
	Helsinki	2.01
Cyprus		1.37
	Lefkosia	1.75
Czech Republic		2.03
	Prague	3.06
Estonia		6.60
	Tallinn	6.04
Hungary		1.52
	Budapest	1.45
Latvia		n/a
	Riga	n/a
Lithuania		8.76
	Vilnius	8.28
Malta		0.81
	Valletta	0.00
Poland		1.29
	Warsaw	1.92
Romania		2.08
	Bucharest	1.10
Slovakia		1.68
	Bratislava	3.12
Slovenia		0.78
	Ljubljana	0.50

EU candidate countries		Homicides per 100,000 population (average per year 2006-2008)
Country	City	
FYR Macedonia		2.01
	Skopje	3.30
Turkey		4.96
	Ankara	4.21
Croatia		1.61
	Zagreb	1.36

EFTA/EAA countries		Homicides per 100,000 population (average per year 2006-2008)
Country	City	
Iceland		0.22
	Reykjavik	0.51
Liechtenstein		0.94
	Vaduz	0.00
Norway		0.69
	Oslo	1.76
Switzerland		0.73
	Berne	1.34

Source: Eurostat, Crime and Criminal Justice Statistics
Published: November 2010

5. Annex: Notes on statistics used in this bulletin

5.1 The statistics within this bulletin provide details on cases of homicide – defined as either murder or culpable homicide. Causing death by dangerous driving and causing death by careless driving when under the influence of drink or drugs are excluded. In 2009-10, there were 26 such crimes recorded by the police in Scotland.

5.2 The Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007 came into force on 6 April 2008 and sets out a new offence for convicting an organisation where a gross failure in the way activities were managed or organised, results in a person's death. This applies to a wide range of organisations across the public and private sectors. For 2009-10, there were no cases of corporate homicide reported in Scotland.

5.3 The summary figures presented are derived from information provided by the police on each case they initially record 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.

5.4 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 offence 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.

5.5 A single case of homicide is counted for each incident involving murder or culpable homicide irrespective of the number of perpetrators or victims. Where more than one person is accused of killing one or more victims, the main accused for the purposes of these analyses is the one who received the severest penalty. If more than one possible main accused is identified, then the first recorded on the statistical return is selected. Similarly if a person is accused of killing more than one victim, the main victim is the one for which the accused received the severest penalty, or where more than one possible main victim can be identified the first one recorded on the statistical return is selected.

5.6 The figures given in this bulletin are as known to the Scottish Government in December 2010. The initial classification of a case as homicide is made by the police; this will generally be murder. This classification may be altered as a result of decisions taken in the course of criminal proceedings. Some cases initially classified as homicide will, on the basis of criminal proceedings, no longer be classified as such at a later date. This happens in cases where it is found that a homicide had not in fact taken place at all, for example where the main accused person is found guilty of a lesser offence, such as serious assault; or where the decision has been made not to proceed with the case, for example if it is concluded that the victim committed suicide. For these reasons, and as a result of continual data checking, the figures for 2010-11 and for previous years which will appear in the next bulletin may differ slightly from those given here.

5.7 Due to changes in collection methods and resourcing issues it has not been possible to carry out matching of homicide returns from police forces with court proceedings for 2009-10 data. There may be a small overcount of the number of cases currently recorded as homicide as some cases may no longer be classified as homicide. There may also be a small undercount of accused where additional accused have been identified after the homicide was recorded. It is hoped that matching with court proceedings data and publication of related tables will be carried out by the middle of 2011.

5.8 For those cases with multiple accused which are currently recorded as homicide, the co-accused are included in the statistics in this bulletin regardless of whether or not they were ultimately charged with homicide. For example, if the main accused person is found guilty of homicide by the court but the co-accused are found guilty of serious assault then the

co-accused continue to be counted as persons accused of cases currently recorded as homicide.

5.9 In considering the relationship of the main accused person to a victim, partner includes: spouse, separated or divorced spouse, cohabitee, lover, boy/girlfriend but not necessarily ex-boyfriend/girlfriend pre-2000/01, as these may have been recorded as simply acquaintances. Partner figures for 2000/01 onwards do include ex-boyfriend/girlfriend.

5.10 The motive is as determined by the police. For homicides recorded before 2000 information was collected on up to two motives. For simplicity of presentation, only one motive for killing has been selected for each accused person. Where more than one motive was recorded, the first one given has been selected as the main motive unless it was a rage or quarrel, in which case the second one given has been selected. 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, in the following order of priority: shooting, sharp instrument, blunt instrument, hitting and kicking, strangulation, other. Sharp instrument includes knives, swords and other pointed or edged weapons. The main method of poisoning includes the use of drugs, gas and carbon monoxide poisoning.

5.11 The population data used to calculate the rate figures given in Tables 1, 5 and 6 are the 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>.

5.12 The percentage figures given in tables and charts have been independently rounded, so they may not always sum to the relevant sub-totals or totals.

5.13 Only a limited selection of tables can be included in any statistical bulletin. Further analysis of homicide statistics can be supplied on request. This includes available information relating to time periods other than those covered in the bulletin. In certain cases a fee is charged. For details of what can be provided, please telephone Gemma Jackson on 0131 244 8275 or e-mail JusticeStatistics@scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

5.14 In Scotland, assault is a common law offence. In order to distinguish between serious and minor assaults, police forces use a common definition of what a serious assault is.

“An assault or attack in which the victim sustains injury resulting in detention in hospital as an inpatient, for the treatment of that injury, or any of the following injuries whether or not detained in hospital;

- Fractures (the breaking or cracking of a bone. Note – nose is cartilage not bone, so a ‘broken nose’ should not be classified unless it meets one of the other criteria)
- Internal injuries
- Severe concussion
- Loss of consciousness
- Lacerations requiring sutures which may lead to impairment or Disfigurement
- Any other injury which may lead to impairment or disfigurement.”

5.15 The following symbol is used throughout the tables in this bulletin.
– = nil

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