

Statistical Bulletin

Crime and Justice Series

A National Statistics Publication for Scotland

RECORDED CRIMES AND OFFENCES INVOLVING FIREARMS, SCOTLAND, 2010-11 25 October 2011



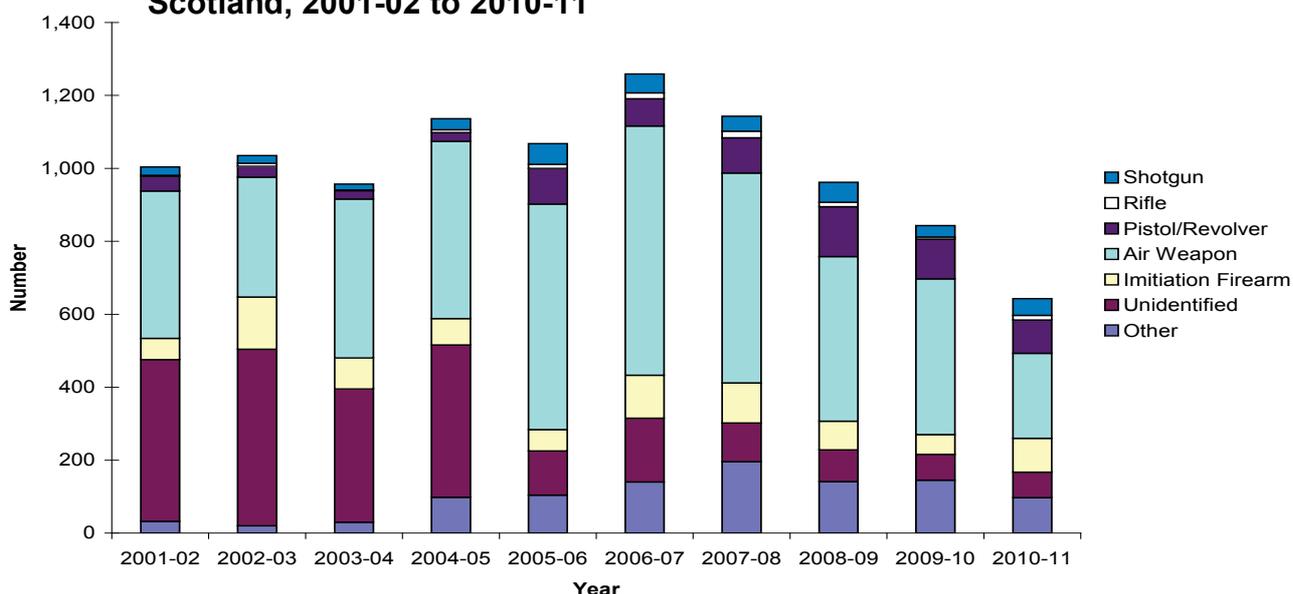
1. Introduction

This bulletin is part of a series of bulletins produced by the Scottish Government on the criminal justice system. It provides information on those crimes and offences recorded by the police in which a firearm was **alleged** to have been involved or where a firearm was stolen.

Not all such crimes and offences are reported to the police. The extent of under-reporting is likely to vary considerably according to the seriousness of the crime or offence; for example, armed robberies are much more likely to be reported to the police than malicious damage caused by the firing of an air weapon. Moreover, the propensity of the public to report crimes and offences to the police is influenced by a number of factors and may therefore change over time; thus trends in the number of crimes and offences *recorded* may differ from trends in the number of crimes and offences actually *committed*.

Statistics on crimes and offences involving firearms help to inform National Outcome 9 – ‘we live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger’. These statistics attract public, academic, media and political interest, with a wide range of users and stakeholders using the statistics to monitor trends, develop research and support evidence-based policy decisions.

Chart 1 Main firearm recorded in offences involving the alleged use of a firearm, Scotland, 2001-02 to 2010-11¹



1. Figures for 2008-09 revised to include data for Quarter 1 (April-June) 2008 for Fife Constabulary which had previously been omitted.

CONTENTS

Page

1. INTRODUCTION.....	1
2. MAIN POINTS.....	3
3. COMMENTARY	4
3.1 <i>Offences involving firearms.....</i>	4
3.2 <i>Main firearm recorded.....</i>	5
3.3 <i>Firearm use.....</i>	5
3.4 <i>Location of firearm offence</i>	6
3.5 <i>Victim characteristics.....</i>	7
3.6 <i>Clear-up rates.....</i>	7
3.7 <i>Accused characteristics.....</i>	7
3.8 <i>Offences by police force area.....</i>	8
3.9 <i>Stolen firearms</i>	8
3.10 <i>Minor Firearms Act 1968 offences</i>	8
4. APPENDIX OF TABLES.....	9
5. ANNEX: STATISTICAL NOTES	19
5.1 <i>Data Returns</i>	19
5.2 <i>Legislation.....</i>	19
5.3 <i>Crimes and offences cleared up.....</i>	20
5.4 <i>Statistical issues.....</i>	21
5.5 <i>Classification.....</i>	22
5.6 <i>Other.....</i>	23

To avoid unnecessary repetition of the term ‘recorded crimes and offences’ throughout this publication, reference will simply be made to ‘offences’. This should be interpreted to mean ‘recorded crimes and offences’. Any reference to the ‘use and/or involvement’ of firearms throughout this bulletin should also be interpreted to include the ‘alleged use and/or involvement’ of firearms.

2. Main Points

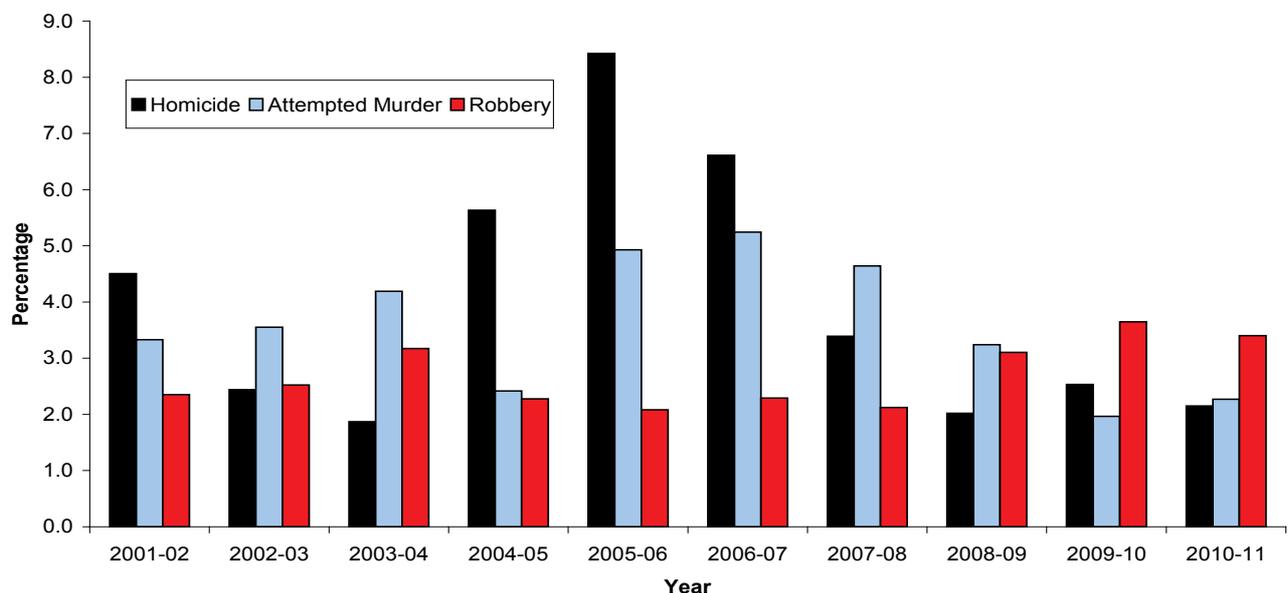
- Scottish police forces recorded 643 offences in which a firearm was alleged to have been involved in 2010-11, a decrease of 24% from the number recorded in 2009-10 (843). This is the lowest reported total for the 10 year period covered by this bulletin ([Table 1](#)).
- The number of attempted murders involving a firearm increased by 18%, rising from 11 offences in 2009-10 to 13 in 2010-11. The number of serious assaults involving a firearm decreased by 37% between 2009-10 and 2010-11, reducing from 19 offences to 12 ([Table 1](#)).
- A total of 39 vandalism offences involving the alleged use of a firearm were recorded in 2010-11, falling by 59% from 2009-10. The number of minor assaults involving a firearm decreased by 33%, from 164 in 2009-10 to 110 in 2010-11 ([Table 1](#)).
- The number of robberies involving the use of a firearm decreased from 91 in 2009-10 to 87 in 2010-11, with the number of offences of reckless conduct with a firearm falling by 31% between 2009-10 and 2010-11 ([Table 1](#)).
- The use of firearms in criminal activity continued to constitute only a small proportion of all offences recorded by the police in 2010-11 (see [Annex 5.4.3](#)); 2.2% of homicides (2 offences), 2.3% of attempted murders (13 offences) and 3.4% of robberies (87 offences). Less than 0.5% of all serious assault, vandalism and minor assault offences involved the alleged use of a firearm ([Table 2](#)).
- Air weapons accounted for 36% (233) of all offences involving the alleged involvement of a firearm in 2010-11, compared to 51% (427) in 2009-10 ([Table 3](#)).
- The number of offences in which a firearm was discharged and caused fatal or non-fatal injury decreased by 28% from 154 in 2009-10 to 111 in 2010-11 ([Table 5](#)).
- Of the 111 main victims who were either fatally or non-fatally injured during an offence in which a firearm was discharged in 2010-11, 81 were male (73%) and 29 were female (26%). There was 1 reported offence involving the shooting of a police officer causing fatal or non-fatal injury. Of these victims, 39 were aged between 11-15 years (35%) and 19 were aged 10 years or under (17%) ([Table 10](#)).
- In 2010-11, 67% of all offences in which a firearm was alleged to have been involved were cleared-up, an increase from 61% in 2009-10 and the highest clear-up rate recorded in the 10 year period covered by this bulletin ([Table 11](#)).
- In 2010-11, the main accused was aged 15 years or under in 21% of cleared up offences involving the use of a firearm (91 out of 434 offences). A further 21% (92 offences) of cleared up cases were committed by an accused aged 16-20 years ([Table 12](#)).
- Strathclyde police force area, which contained 43% of the estimated population of Scotland in 2010 (see [Annex 5.4.2](#)), accounted for 56% (359) of all offences in which a firearm was alleged to have been involved in 2010-11 ([Table 13](#)).

3. Commentary

3.1 Offences involving firearms (*Table 1, Table 1A, Table 2 and Chart 2*)

- **Minor Firearms Act 1968 offences (mainly relating to the possession, handling and distribution of weapons and ammunition) are not included in the main tables of this bulletin. Totals for these offences are presented separately in Table 15 (see Annex 5.1.2).**
- Scottish police forces recorded 643 offences in which a firearm was alleged to have been involved in 2010-11, a decrease of 24% from the number recorded in 2009-10 (843). This is the lowest reported total for the 10 year period covered by this bulletin.
- The offence category which contained the highest number of firearm-related incidents in 2010-11 was 'other crimes and offences', which constituted 25% of all recorded offences involving a firearm. The large increase in this category in 2005-06 was primarily due to a clarification of the counting rules (see Annex 5.4.8 – 5.4.10).
- In 2010-11, 2 homicides involving a firearm were recorded, the same number as occurred in the previous year. The number of attempted murders involving a firearm increased by 18%, rising from 11 offences in 2009-10 to 13 in 2010-11.
- The number of serious assaults involving a firearm decreased by 37% between 2009-10 and 2010-11, reducing from 19 offences to 12, whilst the number of robberies involving a firearm decreased by 4% from 91 recorded offences in 2009-10 to 87 in 2010-11.

Chart 2 Offences in which a firearm was alleged to have been involved as a percentage of (selected) total recorded crimes¹, Scotland, 2001-02 to 2010-11



1. See Annex 5.4.3.

- When air weapons and unidentified weapons are excluded, the total number of offences involving a firearm in 2010-11 decreased by 1% from 2009-10 (345 to 340 offences).
- The largest single offence category in 2010-11 when air weapons and unidentified weapons were excluded was 'other crimes and offences', which constituted 27% of the overall number of offences involving a firearm (92 offences). This was followed by robbery (21%) and Firearms Act 1968 offences (17%).
- The use of firearms in criminal activity continued to constitute only a small proportion of all offences recorded by the police in 2010-11; 2.2% of homicides (2 offences), 2.3% of attempted murders (13 offences) and 3.4% of robberies (87 offences). Less than 0.5% of all serious assault, vandalism and minor assault offences involved the alleged use of a firearm (see [Annex 5.4.3](#)).

3.2 *Main firearm recorded (Table 3, Table 3A, Table 4 and Chart 1)*

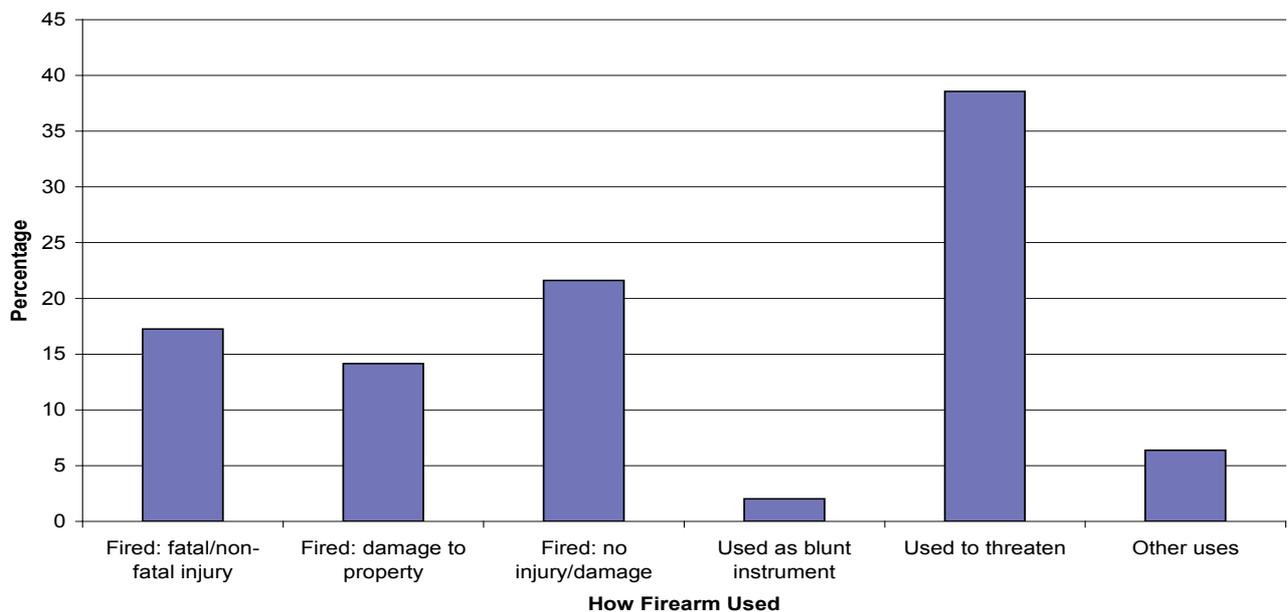
- Air weapons accounted for 36% (233) of all offences involving the use of a firearm in 2010-11, compared to 51% (427) in 2009-10.
- Between 2009-10 and 2010-11, the number of offences involving the alleged use of a shotgun or imitation firearm increased by 48% and 72% respectively.
- The number of recorded offences involving a pistol/revolver fell by 17% between 2009-10 and 2010-11 (109 to 91 offences). 'Other' firearms were used in 15% of offences involving the alleged use of a firearm in 2010-11. This category includes all other weapons covered by the Firearms Act 1968 that are not separately identified – such as starting guns, taser guns and pepper spray.
- The 2 homicide cases involving a firearm in 2010-11 were both committed using a pistol/revolver. Of the 13 attempted murders recorded as involving a firearm, the main weapon was identified as a pistol/revolver in 8 of the offences, with the remaining offences involving a shotgun.
- An air weapon was alleged to have been used in 82 of the 135 counts of 'reckless conduct with firearms' (61%) in 2010-11. An air weapon was also used in 39% of minor assaults and 34% of 'other crimes and offences'.

3.3 *Firearm use (Table 5, Table 5A, Table 6, Table 7, Table 8, Table 8a and Chart 3)*

- Of the 643 recorded offences involving a firearm in Scotland in 2010-11, 53% (341) resulted in the actual discharge of the firearm.
- The number of offences in which a firearm was fired and caused fatal or non-fatal injury to a person decreased by 28% between 2009-10 and 2010-11 (154 to 111 offences).
- The number of cases in which a firearm was discharged causing no injury or damage decreased from 186 in 2009-10 to 139 in 2010-11. Property damage resulting from a fired weapon decreased by 49%, falling from 177 in 2009-10 to 91 in 2010-11.

- Of the 341 offences in which a firearm was actually discharged in 2010-11, 52% (177) involved an air weapon. Of these offences involving an air weapon, 48 resulted in non-fatal injury to a person and 50 resulted in damage to property.
- Of the 110 minor assaults involving a firearm that were recorded in 2010-11, 58 resulted in the weapon being discharged and causing non-fatal injury. This accounts for over half (53%) of all recorded offences in which a firearm was fired and caused injury.

Chart 3 How main firearm recorded was used in offences involving the alleged use of a firearm, Scotland, 2010-11

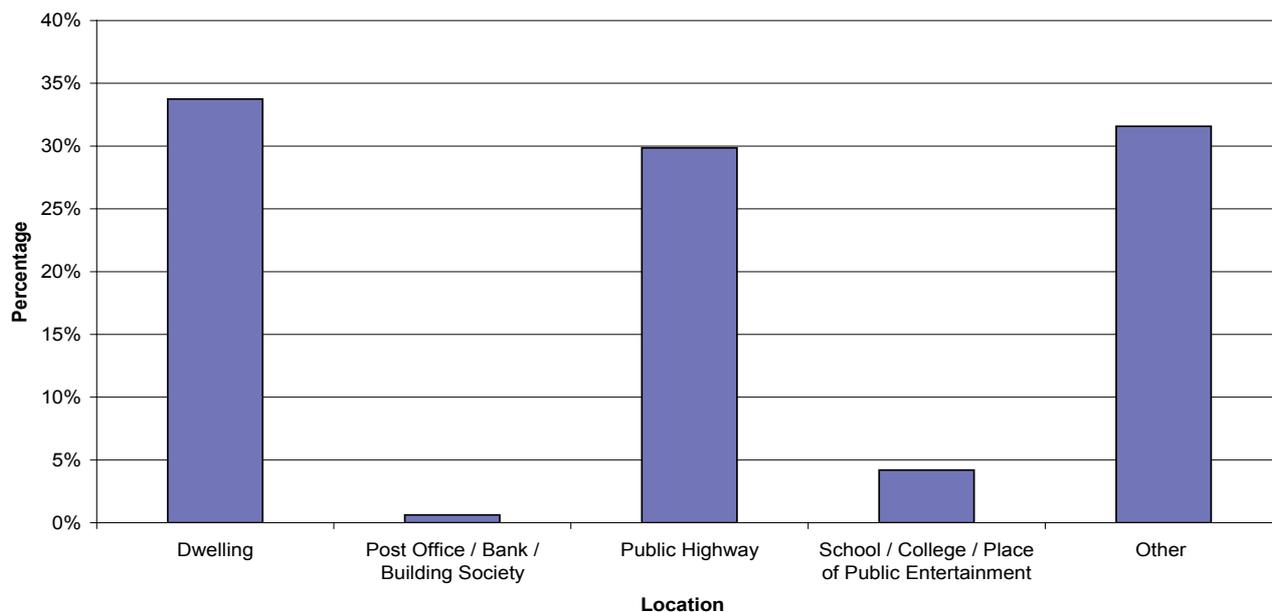


- The number of recorded offences in which a firearm was used to threaten increased by 14% between 2009-10 and 2010-11 (217 to 248 offences), whilst the number of 'other uses' decreased by 58% (97 to 41 offences). In more than two-thirds of offences that involved a pistol/revolver in 2010-11, the weapon was used to threaten (64 out of 91 offences).
- In 2010-11, a weapon was used to threaten in 95% of recorded robberies involving a firearm (83 out of 87 offences), reflecting the supposed nature of such crimes. In 64% of Firearms Act 1968 offences and 49% of 'other crimes and offences' involving a firearm, the weapon was used to threaten.

3.4 Location of firearm offence (Table 9, Table 9A and Chart 4)

- Of the 643 recorded offences involving a firearm in 2010-11, 217 occurred in a dwelling (34%), whilst 192 took place on a public highway (30%).
- 21 offences involving the alleged use of a firearm occurred in a school/college in 2010-11, increasing from the 16 reported cases in 2009-10.

Chart 4 Location of offences involving the alleged use of a firearm¹, Scotland, 2010-11



1. Public highway includes roads and footpaths.

3.5 Victim characteristics (Table 10 and Table 10A)

- Of the 111 main victims who were either fatally or non-fatally injured during an offence in which a firearm was alleged to have been discharged in 2010-11, 81 were male (73%) and 29 were female (26%). There was one reported offence involving the shooting of a police officer causing fatal or non-fatal injury.
- In 2010-11, 39 main victims were aged between 11-15 years old (35%) and 19 were aged 10 years or under (17%).

3.6 Clear-up rates (Table 11)

- In 2010-11, 67% of all offences in which a firearm was alleged to have been involved were cleared up, an increase from 61% in 2009-10 and the highest clear-up rate recorded in the 10 year period covered by this bulletin (see Annex 5.3).
- The clear-up rate for attempted murders involving a firearm increased from 45% in 2009-10 to 54% in 2010-11, whilst the clear-up rate for serious and minor assaults rose from 53% to 75% and from 74% to 81% respectively.
- The clear-up rate for recorded robberies involving a firearm increased from 35% in 2009-10 to 48% in 2010-11. The clear-up rate for vandalism rose from 9% to 26% within the same time period. Due to the nature of this offence, clear-up rates for vandalism have historically been low.

3.7 Accused characteristics (Table 12 and Table 12A)

- The main accused was aged 15 years or under in 21% of cleared up offences involving the use of a firearm in 2010-11 (91 out of 434 offences). A further 21% of

cleared up cases were committed by an accused aged 16-20 years (92 offences), with the remaining 251 offences having a main accused aged 21 years and over (58%).

- In 2010-11, where the main accused was aged 15 years or under, 37% of offences involved the use of an air weapon (34 out of 91 offences). An air weapon was also involved in 52% of offences committed by a main accused aged 16-20 years, falling to 35% where the main accused was aged 21 years and over.

3.8 *Offences by police force area (Table 13 and Table 13A)*

- Strathclyde police force area, which contained 43% of the estimated population of Scotland in 2010, accounted for 56% (359) of all offences in which a firearm was alleged to have been used in 2010-11 (see [Annex 5.4.2](#)).
- More specifically, 1 homicide; 11 attempted murders (85%); 10 serious assaults (83%), 68 robberies (78%) and 56 minor assaults (51%) in which a firearm was involved, took place in Strathclyde police force area in 2010-11.
- Of the 39 recorded offences of vandalism that involved a firearm in 2010-11, 41% took place in Lothian and Borders police force area (16 offences).

3.9 *Stolen firearms (Table 14)*

- During 2010-11, Scottish police forces recorded 19 offences in which a firearm (other than an air weapon) was stolen, an increase from 18 offences in 2009-10.
- The number of offences in which a shotgun was stolen fell from 8 in 2009-10 to 6 in 2010-11. There were 10 reported offences of 'other firearms' being stolen in 2010-10, the same number as recorded in 2009-10.

3.10 *Minor Firearms Act 1968 offences (Table 15)*

- The number of Minor Firearms Act 1968 offences, mainly relating to the possession, handling and distribution of weapons and ammunition, decreased from 665 in 2009-10 to 649 in 2010-11 (see [Annex 5.1.2](#)).

4. Appendix of Tables

Table 1. Offences in which a firearm was alleged to have been involved, Scotland, 2001-02 to 2010-11	11
Table 1A. Offences in which an <i>identified</i> firearm, other than an air weapon, was alleged to have been involved, Scotland, 2001-02 to 2010-11	11
Table 2. Offences in which a firearm was alleged to have been involved as a percentage of (selected) total recorded crimes, Scotland, 2001-02 to 2010-11.....	11
Table 3. Main firearm recorded in offences involving the alleged use of a firearm, Scotland, 2001-02 to 2010-11	12
Table 3A. Main firearm recorded as a percentage of the total number of offences in which a firearm was alleged to have been involved, Scotland, 2001-02 to 2010-11	12
Table 4. Offences in which a firearm was alleged to have been involved by main firearm recorded, Scotland, 2010-11	12
Table 5. How main firearm recorded was used in offences involving the alleged use of a firearm, Scotland, 2001-02 to 2010-11	13
Table 5A. How main <i>identified</i> firearm, other than an air weapon, was used in offences involving the alleged use of a firearm, Scotland, 2001-02 to 2010-11.....	13
Table 6. Main firearm recorded by how the weapon was used in offences involving the alleged use of a firearm, Scotland, 2010-11.....	13
Table 7. Main firearm recorded in offences in which a weapon was alleged to have been fired causing fatal or non-fatal injury, Scotland, 2001-02 to 2010-11	14
Table 8. Offences in which a firearm was alleged to have been involved by how main firearm was used, Scotland, 2010-11	14
Table 8A. Offences in which an <i>identified</i> firearm, other than an air weapon, was alleged to have been involved by how main firearm was used, Scotland, 2010-11 .	14
Table 9. Location of offences involving the alleged use of a firearm, Scotland, 2001-02 to 2010-11	15
Table 9A. Location of offences in which an <i>identified</i> firearm, other than an air weapon, was alleged to have been involved, Scotland, 2001-02 to 2010-11	15
Table 10. Age and sex of main victim in offences in which a firearm was alleged to have been fired causing fatal or non-fatal injury, Scotland, 2001-02 to 2010-11	15
Table 10A. Age and sex of main victim in offences in which an <i>identified</i> firearm, other than an air weapon, was alleged to have been fired causing fatal or non-fatal injury, Scotland, 2001-02 to 2010-11	16

Table 11. Percentage of offences involving the alleged use of a firearm that were cleared up, Scotland, 2001-02 to 2010-11 16

Table 12. Age of main accused (if identified) in offences involving the alleged use of a firearm, Scotland, 2001-02 to 2010-11 16

Table 12A. Age of main accused (if identified) by main firearm recorded in offences involving the alleged use of a firearm, Scotland, 2010-11 17

Table 13. Offences in which a firearm was alleged to have been involved by police force area, Scotland, 2010-11 17

Table 13A. Offences in which an *identified* firearm, other than an air weapon, was alleged to have been involved by police force area, Scotland, 2010-11 17

Table 14. Offences in which a firearm was stolen by main firearm recorded (excluding air weapons), Scotland, 2001-02 to 2010-11 17

Table 15. Miscellaneous firearm offences by police force area¹, Scotland, 2001-02 to 2010-11 18

Table 1. Offences in which a firearm was alleged to have been involved, Scotland, 2001-02 to 2010-11

Type of Offence	Number & Percentage										
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09 ¹	2009-10	2010-11	% change 09-10 to 10-11
Homicide	5	3	2	8	8	8	4	2	2	2	n/r
Attempted murder	24	27	31	20	35	43	33	23	11	13	18
Serious assault	47	39	67	48	20	19	37	16	19	12	-37
Robbery	108	117	132	85	74	82	65	92	91	87	-4
Vandalism	280	276	344	408	396	204	124	128	95	39	-59
Reckless conduct with firearms	158	148	137	169	123	291	294	234	197	135	-31
Firearms Act 1968 offences ²	125	153	115	120	152	196	152	128	91	84	-8
Minor assault	216	230	104	229	143	200	201	142	164	110	-33
Other crimes & offences	41	42	25	49	117	216	233	197	173	161	-7
Total	1,004	1,035	957	1,136	1,068	1,259	1,143	962	843	643	-24

1. Figures revised to include data for Quarter 1 (April-June) 2008 for Fife Constabulary which had previously been omitted.

2. Possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life, commit crime and cause fear of violence. Does not include miscellaneous firearm offences. These are presented separately in Table 15.

n/r - not reported (base denominator below 10 - see Annex 5.6.1).

Table 1A. Offences in which an identified firearm, other than an air weapon, was alleged to have been involved, Scotland, 2001-02 to 2010-11

Type of Offence	Number & Percentage										
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09 ¹	2009-10	2010-11	% change 09-10 to 10-11
Homicide	-	-	1	2	5	4	2	1	1	2	n/r
Attempted murder	9	-	4	13	19	21	24	18	8	13	n/r
Serious assault	4	9	16	3	3	3	13	6	2	4	n/r
Robbery	25	33	29	24	56	50	41	68	65	70	8
Vandalism	4	4	3	15	27	19	23	10	17	13	-24
Reckless conduct with firearms	5	14	11	10	42	51	58	51	40	35	-13
Firearms Act 1968 offences ²	54	104	59	62	80	85	87	82	51	59	16
Minor assault	36	34	21	77	52	72	100	81	82	52	-37
Other crimes & offences	19	24	12	26	45	96	114	107	79	92	16
Total	156	222	156	232	329	401	462	424	345	340	-1

1. Figures revised to include data for Quarter 1 (April-June) 2008 for Fife Constabulary which had previously been omitted.

2. Possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life, commit crime and cause fear of violence. Does not include miscellaneous firearm offences. These are presented separately in Table 15.

n/r - not reported (base denominator below 10 - see Annex 5.6.1).

Table 2. Offences in which a firearm was alleged to have been involved as a percentage of (selected) total recorded crimes¹, Scotland, 2001-02 to 2010-11

Type of Offence	Percentage ²									
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09 ³	2009-10	2010-11
Homicide	4.5	2.4	1.9	5.6	8.4	6.6	3.4	2.0	2.5	2.2
Attempted murder	3.3	3.6	4.2	2.4	4.9	5.2	4.6	3.2	2.0	2.3
Serious assault	0.7	0.6	1.0	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.2
Robbery	2.4	2.5	3.2	2.3	2.1	2.3	2.1	3.1	3.6	3.4
Vandalism	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Minor assault	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2

1. See Annex 5.4.4.

2. Some of the figures in this table are based on fewer than 100 recorded cases.

3. Figures revised to include data for Quarter 1 (April-June) 2008 for Fife Constabulary which had previously been omitted.

Table 3. Main firearm recorded in offences involving the alleged use of a firearm, Scotland, 2001-02 to 2010-11

Main Firearm Recorded ¹	Number & Percentage										
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09 ²	2009-10	2010-11	% change 09-10 to 10-11
Shotgun	23	21	16	30	57	52	41	55	31	46	48
Rifle	3	8	2	8	11	16	18	12	6	13	n/r
Pistol/Revolver	40	30	23	24	98	75	97	137	109	91	-17
Air Weapon	404	329	436	486	618	683	575	451	427	233	-45
Imitation Firearm	58	143	85	72	59	118	110	79	54	93	72
Unidentified	444	484	365	418	121	175	106	87	71	70	-1
Other	32	20	30	98	104	140	196	141	145	97	-33
Total identified firearms (excluding air weapons)	156	222	156	232	329	401	462	424	345	340	-1
Total	1,004	1,035	957	1,136	1,068	1,259	1,143	962	843	643	-24

1. See Annex 5.4.4.

2. Figures revised to include data for Quarter 1 (April-June) 2008 for Fife Constabulary which had previously been omitted.

n/r - not reported (base denominator below 10 - see Annex 5.6.1).

Table 3A. Main firearm recorded as a percentage of the total number of offences in which a firearm was alleged to have been involved, Scotland, 2001-02 to 2010-11

Main Firearm Recorded ¹	Percentage									
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09 ²	2009-10	2010-11
Shotgun	2	2	2	3	5	4	4	6	4	7
Rifle	*	1	*	1	1	1	2	1	1	2
Pistol/Revolver	4	3	2	2	9	6	8	14	13	14
Air Weapon	40	32	46	43	58	54	50	47	51	36
Imitation Firearm	6	14	9	6	6	9	10	8	6	14
Unidentified	44	47	38	37	11	14	9	9	8	11
Other	3	2	3	9	10	11	17	15	17	15
Total identified firearms (excluding air weapons)	16	21	16	20	31	32	40	44	41	53
Total	100	100	100							

1. See Annex 5.4.4.

2. Figures revised to include data for Quarter 1 (April-June) 2008 for Fife Constabulary which had previously been omitted.

* - integer below 0.5%.

Table 4. Offences in which a firearm was alleged to have been involved by main firearm recorded, Scotland, 2010-11

Type of Offence	Main Firearm Recorded							Number
	Shotgun	Rifle	Pistol/ Revolver	Air Weapon	Imitation	Unidentified	Other	Total
Homicide	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Attempted murder	5	-	8	-	-	-	-	13
Serious assault	1	-	-	8	1	-	2	12
Robbery	8	-	44	4	14	13	4	87
Vandalism	1	-	-	23	-	3	12	39
Reckless conduct with firearms	10	3	4	82	1	18	17	135
Firearms Act 1968 offences ¹	7	4	16	19	27	6	5	84
Minor assault	-	1	8	43	16	15	27	110
Other crimes & offences	14	5	9	54	34	15	30	161
Total	46	13	91	233	93	70	97	643

1. Possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life, commit crime and cause fear of violence. Does not include miscellaneous firearm offences.

These are presented separately in Table 15.

Table 5. How main firearm recorded was used in offences involving the alleged use of a firearm, Scotland, 2001-02 to 2010-11

How Firearm Used	Number & Percentage										
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09 ¹	2009-10	2010-11	% change 09-10 to 10-11
Fired - fatal injury	5	3	2	8	8	8	4	2	2	2	n/r
- non-fatal injury	326	340	239	316	189	240	208	136	152	109	-28
- damage to property	341	334	415	500	499	314	222	211	177	91	-49
- no injury/damage	22	45	26	61	68	231	286	224	186	139	-25
Total Fired	694	722	682	885	764	793	720	573	517	341	-34
Used as a blunt instrument	18	9	6	14	10	18	10	12	12	13	8
Used to threaten	186	170	183	202	216	318	266	236	217	248	14
Other uses	106	134	86	35	78	130	147	141	97	41	-58
Total	1,004	1,035	957	1,136	1,068	1,259	1,143	962	843	643	-24

1. Figures revised to include data for Quarter 1 (April-June) 2008 for Fife Constabulary which had previously been omitted.
n/r - not reported (base denominator below 10 - see Annex 5.6.1).

Table 5A. How main identified firearm, other than an air weapon, was used in offences involving the alleged use of a firearm, Scotland, 2001-02 to 2010-11

How Firearm Used	Number & Percentage										
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09 ¹	2009-10	2010-11	% change 09-10 to 10-11
Fired - fatal injury	-	-	1	2	5	4	2	1	1	2	n/r
- non-fatal injury	26	37	31	73	61	74	104	59	69	55	-20
- damage to property	8	12	9	19	40	32	46	31	34	27	-21
- no injury/damage	9	12	10	23	34	62	72	67	48	50	4
Total Fired	34	49	41	94	106	110	152	91	104	84	-19
Used as a blunt instrument	3	3	1	3	6	10	6	9	8	10	n/r
Used to threaten	61	69	64	91	133	156	154	177	129	170	32
Other uses	49	89	40	21	50	63	78	80	56	26	-54
Total	156	222	156	232	329	401	462	424	345	340	-1

1. Figures revised to include data for Quarter 1 (April-June) 2008 for Fife Constabulary which had previously been omitted.
n/r - not reported (base denominator below 10 - see Annex 5.6.1).

Table 6. Main firearm recorded by how the weapon was used in offences involving the alleged use of a firearm, Scotland, 2010-11

How Firearm Used	Main Firearm Recorded ¹							Total
	Shotgun	Rifle	Pistol/ Revolver	Air Weapon	Imitation	Unidentified	Other	
Fired - fatal injury	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
- non-fatal injury	4	-	8	48	7	6	36	109
- damage to property	8	4	2	50	-	14	13	91
- no injury/damage	2	5	7	79	16	10	20	139
Total Fired	14	9	19	177	23	30	69	341
Used as a blunt instrument	1	1	6	1	1	2	1	13
Used to threaten	23	3	64	44	60	34	20	248
Other uses	8	-	2	11	9	4	7	41
Total	46	13	91	233	93	70	97	643

1. See Annex 5.4.4.

Table 7. Main firearm recorded in offences in which a weapon was alleged to have been fired causing fatal or non-fatal injury, Scotland, 2001-02 to 2010-11

Main Firearm Recorded ¹	Number & Percentage										
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09 ²	2009-10	2010-11	% change 09-10 to 10-11
Shotgun	4	3	2	6	11	14	11	5	7	4	n/r
Rifle	-	-	1	3	-	3	2	1	1	-	n/r
Pistol/Revolver	6	-	-	2	11	10	10	7	4	10	n/r
Air Weapon	162	149	100	96	121	145	94	67	78	48	-38
Imitation Firearm	3	27	12	11	2	5	6	1	1	7	n/r
Unidentified	143	157	109	153	10	25	12	11	6	6	n/r
Other	13	7	17	53	42	46	77	46	57	36	-37
Total identified firearms (excluding air weapons)	26	37	32	75	66	78	106	60	70	57	-19
Total	331	343	241	324	197	248	212	138	154	111	-28

1. See Annex 5.4.4.

2. Figures revised to include data for Quarter 1 (April-June) 2008 for Fife Constabulary which had previously been omitted.

n/r - not reported (base denominator below 10 - see Annex 5.6.1).

Table 8. Offences in which a firearm was alleged to have been involved by how main firearm was used, Scotland, 2010-11

Type of Offence	How Firearm Used							Number
	Fired: fatal injury	Fired: non- fatal injury	Fired: property damage	Fired: no injury/ damage	Blunt instrument	Used to threaten	Other uses	Total
Homicide	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Attempted murder	-	10	-	3	-	-	-	13
Serious assault	-	10	-	-	-	2	-	12
Robbery	-	1	-	2	1	83	-	87
Vandalism	-	-	38	-	1	-	-	39
Reckless conduct with firearms	-	18	36	77	-	3	1	135
Firearms Act 1968 offences ¹	-	3	1	12	1	54	13	84
Minor assault	-	58	-	17	8	27	-	110
Other crimes & offences	-	9	16	28	2	79	27	161
Total	2	109	91	139	13	248	41	643

1. Possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life, commit crime and cause fear of violence. Does not include miscellaneous firearm offences. These are presented separately in Table 15.

Table 8A. Offences in which an *identified* firearm, other than an air weapon, was alleged to have been involved by how main firearm was used, Scotland, 2010-11

Type of Offence	How Firearm Used							Number
	Fired: fatal injury	Fired: non- fatal injury	Fired: property damage	Fired: no injury/ damage	Blunt instrument	Used to threaten	Other uses	Total
Homicide	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Attempted murder	-	10	-	3	-	-	-	13
Serious assault	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	4
Robbery	-	1	-	2	1	66	-	70
Vandalism	-	-	12	-	1	-	-	13
Reckless conduct with firearms	-	9	10	13	-	2	1	35
Firearms Act 1968 offences ¹	-	-	1	7	1	40	10	59
Minor assault	-	29	-	6	5	12	-	52
Other crimes & offences	-	4	4	19	2	48	15	92
Total	2	55	27	50	10	170	26	340

1. Possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life, commit crime and cause fear of violence. Does not include miscellaneous firearm offences. These are presented separately in Table 15.

Table 9. Location of offences involving the alleged use of a firearm, Scotland, 2001-02 to 2010-11

Location of Offence	Number & Percentage										% change 09-10 to 10-11
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09 ¹	2009-10	2010-11	
Dwelling	307	296	331	411	450	377	386	324	278	217	-22
Post Office	7	9	15	12	3	9	2	6	6	1	n/r
Bank/Building Society	2	11	10	7	13	7	3	3	7	3	n/r
Public Highway ²	353	391	271	301	253	438	415	332	277	192	-31
School/College	20	23	23	26	19	27	17	23	16	21	31
Place of Public Entertainment	7	12	5	4	6	10	13	11	3	6	n/r
Other Locations	308	293	302	375	324	391	307	263	256	203	-21
Total	1,004	1,035	957	1,136	1,068	1,259	1,143	962	843	643	-24

1. Figures revised to include data for Quarter 1 (April-June) 2008 for Fife Constabulary which had previously been omitted.

2. Including roads and footpaths.

n/r - not reported (base denominator below 10 - see Annex 5.6.1).

Table 9A. Location of offences in which an *identified* firearm, other than an air weapon, was alleged to have been involved, Scotland, 2001-02 to 2010-11

Location of Offence	Number & Percentage										% change 09-10 to 10-11
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09 ¹	2009-10	2010-11	
Dwelling	34	36	31	45	96	70	126	119	93	112	20
Post Office	-	4	3	6	2	7	1	4	4	1	n/r
Bank/Building Society	-	7	3	2	11	3	3	1	7	2	n/r
Public Highway ²	56	91	44	75	90	156	195	162	120	92	-23
School/College	1	8	4	9	8	11	9	13	13	15	15
Place of Public Entertainment	2	3	4	1	2	4	6	5	3	3	n/r
Other Locations	63	73	67	94	120	150	122	120	105	115	10
Total	156	222	156	232	329	401	462	424	345	340	-1

1. Figures revised to include data for Quarter 1 (April-June) 2008 for Fife Constabulary which had previously been omitted.

2. Including roads and footpaths.

n/r - not reported (base denominator below 10 - see Annex 5.6.1).

Table 10. Age and sex of main victim in offences in which a firearm was alleged to have been fired causing fatal or non-fatal injury, Scotland, 2001-02 to 2010-11

Age/Sex of Main Victim	Number & Percentage										% change 09-10 to 10-11
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09 ¹	2009-10	2010-11	
All victims	331	343	241	324	197	248	212	138	154	111	-28
10 or under	32	42	30	52	29	30	38	21	25	19	-24
11-15	107	112	73	92	47	60	46	25	43	39	-9
16-20	50	49	30	46	21	37	21	16	30	7	-77
21 or over	142	140	108	134	100	121	107	76	56	46	-18
Male	238	255	175	208	132	190	154	102	105	81	-23
10 or under	22	31	24	36	18	22	29	15	16	9	-44
11-15	74	82	49	47	28	44	30	20	20	23	15
16-20	37	40	24	27	11	29	14	10	24	6	-75
21 or over	105	102	78	98	75	95	81	57	45	43	-4
Female	92	87	64	116	64	57	57	36	49	29	-41
10 or under	10	11	6	16	11	8	9	6	9	10	n/r
11-15	33	30	24	45	19	16	16	5	23	16	-30
16-20	13	9	6	19	10	8	7	6	6	1	n/r
21 or over	36	37	28	36	24	25	25	19	11	2	-82
Police Officer	1	1	2	-	1	1	1	-	-	1	n/r

1. Figures revised to include data for Quarter 1 (April-June) 2008 for Fife Constabulary which had previously been omitted.

n/r - not reported (base denominator below 10 - see Annex 5.6.1).

Table 10A. Age and sex of main victim in offences in which an *identified* firearm, other than an air weapon, was alleged to have been fired causing fatal or non-fatal injury, Scotland, 2001-02 to 2010-11

Age/Sex of Main Victim	Number & Percentage										% change 09-10 to 10-11
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09 ¹	2009-10	2010-11	
All victims	26	37	32	75	66	78	106	60	70	57	-19
10 or under	5	10	10	25	14	10	27	13	10	14	40
11-15	7	13	15	21	14	20	24	9	22	19	-14
16-20	3	2	2	3	5	6	9	7	13	2	-85
21 or over	11	12	5	26	33	42	46	31	25	22	-12
Male	23	25	22	43	46	64	82	46	44	38	-14
10 or under	5	7	9	17	8	9	21	11	4	6	n/r
11-15	4	9	8	6	8	14	18	8	11	12	9
16-20	3	2	1	1	1	5	7	3	10	1	-90
21 or over	11	7	4	19	29	36	36	24	19	19	0
Female	3	12	10	32	19	14	24	14	26	18	-31
10 or under	-	3	1	8	6	1	6	2	6	8	n/r
11-15	3	4	7	15	6	6	6	1	11	7	-36
16-20	-	-	1	2	4	1	2	4	3	1	n/r
21 or over	-	5	1	7	3	6	10	7	6	2	n/r
Police Officer	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	n/r

1. Figures revised to include data for Quarter 1 (April-June) 2008 for Fife Constabulary which had previously been omitted.
n/r - not reported (base denominator below 10 - see Annex 5.6.1).

Table 11. Percentage of offences involving the alleged use of a firearm that were cleared up¹, Scotland, 2001-02 to 2010-11

Type of Offence	Percentage ²									
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09 ³	2009-10	2010-11
Homicide	-	67	50	63	88	100	50	-	50	100
Attempted murder	38	22	48	40	66	40	58	52	45	54
Serious assault	53	38	57	35	55	47	54	44	53	75
Robbery	39	43	46	48	30	46	52	54	35	48
Vandalism	10	4	8	3	9	6	13	10	9	26
Reckless conduct with firearms	54	52	47	45	49	58	64	61	63	62
Firearms Act 1968 offences ⁴	91	94	90	83	88	90	86	93	89	86
Minor assault	54	58	57	58	64	62	67	66	74	81
Other crimes & offences	68	90	72	76	62	79	81	68	73	74
Total	45	46	40	38	43	58	64	59	61	67

1. See Annex 5.3.
2. Some of the figures in this table are based on fewer than 100 recorded cases.
3. Figures revised to include data for Quarter 1 (April-June) 2008 for Fife Constabulary which had previously been omitted.
4. Possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life, commit crime and cause fear of violence. Does not include miscellaneous firearm offences. These are presented separately in Table 15.

Table 12. Age of main accused (if identified) in offences involving the alleged use of a firearm, Scotland, 2001-02 to 2010-11

Age of Main Accused	Number & Percentage										% change 09-10 to 10-11
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09 ¹	2009-10	2010-11	
15 or under	120	132	69	110	104	136	176	100	118	91	-23
16-20	134	154	136	120	112	208	217	128	128	92	-28
21 or over	193	190	181	198	240	381	341	343	265	251	-5
Total	447	476	386	428	456	725	734	571	511	434	-15

1. Figures revised to include data for Quarter 1 (April-June) 2008 for Fife Constabulary which had previously been omitted.

Table 12A. Age of main accused (if identified) by main firearm recorded in offences involving the alleged use of a firearm, Scotland, 2010-11

Age of Main Accused	Main Firearm Recorded ¹							Number
	Shotgun	Rifle	Pistol/Revolver	Air Weapon	Imitation	Unidentified	Other	Total
15 or under	-	-	-	34	15	4	38	91
16-20	1	-	6	48	18	5	14	92
21 or over	25	9	47	88	44	13	25	251
Total	26	9	53	170	77	22	77	434

1. See Annex 5.4.4.

Table 13. Offences in which a firearm was alleged to have been involved by police force area, Scotland, 2010-11

Type of Offence									Number
	Central	Dumfries & Galloway	Fife	Grampian	Lothian & Borders	Northern	Strathclyde	Tayside	Scotland
Homicide	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	2
Attempted murder	-	-	1	-	1	-	11	-	13
Serious assault	-	-	1	-	-	-	10	1	12
Robbery	-	-	2	-	15	-	68	2	87
Vandalism	-	6	3	-	16	-	5	9	39
Reckless conduct with firearms	6	6	3	5	30	2	71	12	135
Firearms Act 1968 offences ¹	1	-	3	-	17	2	55	6	84
Minor assault	6	1	11	-	26	1	56	9	110
Other crimes & offences	4	8	10	-	44	3	82	10	161
Total	17	21	35	5	149	8	359	49	643

1. Possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life, commit crime and cause fear of violence. Does not include miscellaneous firearm offences. These are presented separately in Table 15.

Table 13A. Offences in which an identified firearm, other than an air weapon, was alleged to have been involved by police force area, Scotland, 2010-11

Type of Offence									Number
	Central	Dumfries & Galloway	Fife	Grampian	Lothian & Borders	Northern	Strathclyde	Tayside	Scotland
Homicide	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	2
Attempted murder	-	-	1	-	1	-	11	-	13
Serious assault	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	4
Robbery	-	-	2	-	11	-	55	2	70
Vandalism	-	1	-	-	6	-	-	6	13
Reckless conduct with firearms	1	3	1	-	10	2	15	3	35
Firearms Act 1968 offences ¹	1	-	1	-	14	2	38	3	59
Minor assault	1	1	7	-	10	1	26	6	52
Other crimes & offences	1	3	8	-	20	2	50	8	92
Total	4	8	21	-	72	7	199	29	340

1. Possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life, commit crime and cause fear of violence. Does not include miscellaneous firearm offences. These are presented separately in Table 15.

Table 14. Offences in which a firearm was stolen by main firearm recorded (excluding air weapons), Scotland, 2001-02 to 2010-11

Main Firearm Recorded ¹	Number & Percentage										
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	% change 09 to 10-11
Shotgun	12	13	9	5	10	1	6	3	8	6	n/r
Rifle	5	6	1	1	-	1	9	2	-	1	n/r
Pistol/Revolver	1	2	3	1	-	-	2	-	-	2	n/r
Other Firearms	11	5	5	6	2	9	8	5	10	10	0
Total	29	26	18	13	12	11	25	10	18	19	6

1. See Annex 5.4.4.

n/r - not reported (base denominator below 10 - see Annex 5.6.1).

Table 15. Miscellaneous firearm offences by police force area¹, Scotland, 2001-02 to 2010-11

Police Force Area	Number & Percentage										
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	% change 09-10 to 10-11
Central	51	37	40	71	50	51	21	29	21	37	76
Dumfries & Galloway	21	35	37	32	22	29	36	37	23	22	-4
Fife	64	21	19	36	26	56	33	38	26	36	38
Grampian	69	62	66	80	88	72	58	46	62	80	29
Lothian & Borders	36	35	59	102	136	160	142	132	84	58	-31
Northern	66	74	62	69	73	95	50	59	51	84	65
Strathclyde	407	327	321	481	461	444	478	402	345	295	-14
Tayside	41	69	60	76	60	40	45	31	53	37	-30
Total	755	660	664	947	916	947	863	774	665	649	-2

1. Offences mainly related to the possession, handling and distribution of weapons and ammunition (see Annex 5.1.2).

5. Annex: Statistical Notes

5.1 Data Returns

- 5.1.1 The statistics presented in this bulletin are derived from data returns submitted by Scottish police forces in respect of recorded crimes and offences in which a firearm was alleged to have been involved or where a firearm was stolen. The data return that was used to collect the statistics for this bulletin was revised in January 1993. The major change involved moving from an offence-based return to an incident-based return. In incidents where several crimes or offences occur, each crime or offence within the incident is counted.
- 5.1.2 A data return is submitted for each incident where a crime or offence has allegedly involved a firearm. Miscellaneous firearm offences relating mainly to the possession, handling and distribution of firearms and ammunition are excluded from the main tables. Prior to 2005-06, data returns for this bulletin did include miscellaneous firearm offences, but in discussion with police forces it became apparent that not all such incidents were being included. It was therefore decided to remove such incidents from the main tables and to provide a separate table (Table 15) which presents the totals for these offences based on Recorded Crime data returns.
- 5.1.3 It is possible that some of the inter-police force area variations shown in Table 13 and Table 13A arise from differences in procedure or different police force interpretation. The move to an incident-based rather than an individual offence-based recording system revealed some undercounting of offences involving firearms in years prior to 1994.
- 5.1.4 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 bulletin is: **£1,000**.

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

5.2 Legislation

- 5.2.1 Contraventions of Scottish criminal law are divided for statistical purposes into crimes and offences. The term 'crime' is generally used for more serious criminal acts, with the less serious being termed 'offences' (although the term 'offence' may also be used in relation to serious breaches of criminal law).
- 5.2.2 Following the Dunblane incident in 1996, changes to the existing firearms legislation were introduced to enhance public safety. As a result, the Firearms

(Amendment) Act 1997 (the '1997 Act') was implemented and thereafter the Firearms (Amendment)(No.2) Act 1997 (the '1997 (No.2) Act'). Under the 1997 Act, all pistols (otherwise referred to as "handguns") over .22 calibre were banned with effect from 1 October 1997. The 1997 (No.2) Act came into effect from 1 March 1998. A number of types of handgun were exempted from the 1997 (No.2) Act, including muzzle-loading guns, shot pistols, slaughtering instruments, firearms used for the humane killing of animals, trophies of war, etc.

5.2.3 The Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 raised the age for owning an air weapon from 14 years to 17 years; created a new offence of possessing an air weapon or imitation weapon in a public place without reasonable excuse; banned future import and sale of air weapons using self-contained air cartridge systems and licensed those already held. The Criminal Justice Act 2003 also imposed minimum sentences for the illegal possession of a prohibited firearm.

5.2.4 In relation to individuals aged under 18 years, the following legislation has been introduced:

- The Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 raised the minimum age at which a person may purchase or hire either an air weapon or ammunition for an air weapon to 18 years.
- The EU Weapons Directive 91/477/EEC made it an offence to sell or let on hire a firearm or ammunition to a person under the age of 18 years.

5.3 *Crimes and offences cleared up*

5.3.1 The definition of 'cleared up' was revised with effect from 1 April 1996. Previously, a crime or offence was regarded as being cleared up if one or more offenders was apprehended, cited, warned or traced for it. This was revised as follows:

A crime or offence is regarded as cleared up where there exists a sufficiency of evidence under Scots law, to justify consideration of criminal proceedings notwithstanding that a report is not submitted to the procurator fiscal because either:

(i) by standing agreement with the procurator fiscal, the police warn the accused due to the minor nature of the offence, or

(ii) reporting is inappropriate due to the non-age of the accused, death of the accused or other similar circumstances.

5.3.2 For some types of crimes and offences the case is cleared up immediately as the offender is caught in the act. In Scots law, the confession of an accused person to a crime would not in general be sufficient to allow a prosecution to

5.4 Statistical issues

5.4.1 Occasionally, late data returns are submitted by police forces which may result in revisions to the next issue of this statistical bulletin.

5.4.2 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/midyear/index.html>

5.4.3 To calculate the figures provided in Table 2, the total number of offences involving a firearm are calculated as a percentage of all crimes and offences recorded by the police. This data is derived from the Scottish Government's Recorded Crime statistical bulletin series and is provided in the table below (<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PubRecordedCrime>):

Type of Crime	Number									
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Homicide	111	123	107	142	95	121	118	99	79	93
Attempted murder	721	760	740	828	710	820	711	710	560	573
Serious assault	6,685	6,654	6,625	6,775	6,320	6,525	6,000	5,762	5,034	4,920
Robbery	4,592	4,636	4,161	3,736	3,553	3,578	3,064	2,963	2,496	2,557
Vandalism	90,203	91,333	95,663	119,855	120,340	121,676	109,855	100,880	85,576	74,420
Minor assault	55,392	54,956	57,355	73,711	72,281	78,167	73,523	74,130	72,212	70,786

5.4.4 The main firearm is that which inflicts the most serious injury or damage. In cases where no injury or damage are caused, the firearm that is considered to potentially be the most dangerous is treated as the main weapon. The 'other' firearms category includes weapons such as starting guns and ball bearing guns. From 1988, crossbows were included in the 'other' category. The 'imitation' firearms category includes replica and imitation weapons.

5.4.5 Details of the age and sex of the main victim are collected only for offences in which fatal or non-fatal injury is caused. The main victim is the person most seriously injured. Cases involving injury to animals are recorded under the category 'damage to property' rather than 'injury' – which is reserved solely for the purpose of recording injuries to persons.

5.4.6 Details of the age and sex of the main accused are collected for offences that are cleared up. In offences involving injury or damage, the main accused is the person who inflicts the most serious injury or damage. In other instances, it is taken to be the oldest person. From 2001 to 2003, there was an overstatement of crimes cleared up due to the inclusion of some offences where no accused had been identified.

5.4.7 The figures provided in Table 14 for stolen firearms are not included elsewhere in this bulletin. The information reflects solely those incidents

where firearms were stolen and not whether they were used to perpetrate a crime or offence.

where firearms were stolen and not whether they were used to perpetrate a crime or offence.

- 5.4.8 There have been various changes to the way in which the type of firearm involved in offences has been recorded over the years. From 2005-06 onwards, all police forces agreed to identify weapons where possible, resulting in an increase in the alleged use of air weapons (and other identified weapons) and a decrease in the alleged use of unidentified firearms. It was also agreed that from 2006-07 onwards, all forces would include incidents involving air weapons where no injury or damage was caused. These incidents had previously been omitted from the bulletin. It is thought that this change has increased both the total number of offences of reckless conduct with a firearm and the total number of offences involving air weapons.
- 5.4.9 From 2005-06 onwards, the figures reported in this bulletin are expected to provide more extensive coverage of those crimes and offences recorded as involving a firearm. This follows discussions with police forces regarding the scope of the data collection and clarification of what should be included in the statistical return. This clarification is not thought to have impacted on major crimes and offences, but is considered to have resulted in an increase in some of the more minor categories.
- 5.4.10 The increase in offences involving a firearm in 2006-07 is thought to be partly due to the aforementioned clarification of the counting rules which led to the inclusion of more minor crimes that had perhaps been excluded in the past. The scope of what constitutes a firearm was also clarified as some police forces had previously not included incidents involving weapons such as taser guns and mace and pepper sprays, which are all covered under Section 5 of the Firearms Act 1968 (as amended). This clarification appears to have particularly affected figures for minor assault and 'other crimes and offences'.

5.5 *Classification*

- 5.5.1 For the purposes of statistical reporting, the Scottish Government has a classification list containing over 360 crime and offence codes. These are grouped in this bulletin as follows:

Category	Notes
Homicide	- comprises murder and culpable homicide
Attempted murder	
Serious assault	- an assault is classified as serious if the victim sustained an injury resulting in detention in hospital as an in-patient or any of the following injuries whether or not he was detained in hospital: fractures, internal injuries, severe

	concussion, loss of consciousness, lacerations requiring sutures which may lead to impairment or disfigurement or any other injury which may lead to impairment or disfigurement.
Robbery	- includes assault with intent to rob
Vandalism	- includes malicious mischief
Reckless conduct with firearms Firearms Act 1968 offences	- includes possessing a firearm with intent to endanger life, commit crime or resist arrest
Minor assault	
Other crimes and offences	- includes carrying an offensive weapon, Prevention of Crimes Act 1871, poaching and protection of wildlife legislation.

5.6 *Other*

5.6.1 The following symbols are used throughout the tables in this bulletin:

- = nil.

* = integer below 0.5%.

n/r = not reported (a percentage change figure is not reported if the denominator is less than 10 as any resulting figure may be misleading).

5.6.2 Only a limited selection of tables can be included in any statistical bulletin. Further analyses of recorded crimes and offences involving firearms statistics can be supplied on request once the bulletin is published. In certain cases a fee is charged. Figures for past years are available in previous statistical bulletins, which can be found on the Scottish Government website.

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ISBN: 978-1-78045-404-7
ISSN: 0264-1178

APS Group Scotland
DPPAS12021 (10/11)