



Home Office

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Statistical News Release

'Homicides, Firearm Offences and Intimate Violence 2010/11: Supplementary Volume 2 to Crime in England and Wales 2010/11'

This statistical bulletin is the second in the series of supplementary volumes that accompany the main annual crime bulletin 'Crime in England and Wales 2010/11' and presents more detailed information on homicides, firearm offences and intimate violence.

Homicide

There were 636 homicides in England and Wales in 2010/11 including the 12 victims of the Cumbrian shootings committed on 2 June 2010. The total number of homicides in 2010/11 was 28 higher than the 608 in 2009/10 (a 5% increase).

- Overall, there were 11.5 homicides per million population in 2010/11. As in previous years, children under one year old were the most at-risk age group, at 25 homicides per million population.
- As in previous years, the majority of homicide victims were male (68% of victims).
- The most common method of killing continues to be by sharp instrument, with 232 victims killed in this way in 2010/11, compared with 210 in 2009/10.
- There were 60 victims of homicide by shooting (58 by firearm, 2 by crossbow), an increase of 19 from 2009/10. This includes the 12 victims of the Cumbrian shootings.
- Female victims were more likely to be killed by someone they knew than male victims. Over three-quarters (78%) of female victims knew the main suspect compared with over half (57%) of male victims.

Firearm Offences

In 2010/11, firearms were involved in 11,227 recorded offences in England and Wales, the seventh consecutive annual fall and a decrease of 13 per cent compared with the previous year (when 12,976 offences were recorded).

- Firearm offences involving any type of injury decreased by seven per cent, from 2,568 in 2009/10 to 2,399 in 2010/11. The number of injuries recorded each year as a result of firearm offences has fallen by more than half since they peaked at 5,402 in 2004/05.
- There was an increase in the number of fatal injuries resulting from the use of a firearm in recorded offences. This includes the 12 victims of the Cumbrian shootings committed on 2 June 2010. However, there was a decrease in serious injuries of 18 per cent in the last year (down from 404 in 2009/10 to 330 in 2010/11).

- There was an 18 per cent fall in the number of robberies involving a firearm, down from 3,637 to 2,965. This is in the context of an overall increase of one per cent in all offences of robbery recorded by the police over the same period, while robberies involving a knife or sharp instrument (excluding West Midlands for comparability reasons) increased by four per cent.

Firearm offences, excluding air weapons, decreased by 13 per cent, from 8,051 in 2009/10 to 7,024 in 2010/11. Offences involving non-air weapons tend to be for more serious offences, with these weapons being involved in most of the fatalities and serious injuries.

- Handguns were used in 3,105 offences during 2010/11, a fall of 17 per cent on 2009/10, continuing the general downward trend seen since 2001/02. The number of offences involving the use of a shotgun increased by four per cent, from 584 in 2009/10 to 608 in 2010/11. However, the number of offences involving shotguns has remained broadly similar between 2004/05 and 2010/11, ranging between 584 and 642 offences per year.
- There was a six per cent increase in the use of imitation weapons, from 1,512 offences in 2009/10 to 1,610 in 2010/11. Following tightened legislation on imitation firearms introduced in 2007, there was a 41 per cent fall in the number of offences involving these weapons between 2007/08 and 2008/09.
- Non-air weapon offences continue to be geographically concentrated in three police force areas in 2010/11 with Metropolitan, West Midlands and Greater Manchester accounting for three in five such offences (59%). Just under a quarter of the population reside in these three police force areas.

Intimate Violence

- According to the 2010/11 BCS, seven per cent of women and five per cent of men experienced domestic abuse in the last year, equivalent to an estimated 1.2 million female and 800,000 male victims.
- In 2010/11, estimated levels of domestic abuse experienced in the last year were at the lowest levels since 2004/05 when the self-completion module was first included in the BCS. There has been no statistically significant change in the level of domestic abuse since 2008/09.
- Around six per cent of women and four per cent of men experienced partner abuse in the last year, equivalent to around 900,000 female and 600,000 male victims.
- Non-physical abuse (i.e. emotional and financial abuse) was the most common type of abuse experienced by both female (57%) and male (46%) partner abuse victims.
- Female victims of partner abuse were more likely than males to suffer from non-physical abuse, threats and sexual assault, but apparent differences between the sexes for abuse involving force and stalking were not statistically significant.
- Around a quarter (27%) of partner abuse victims suffered a physical injury as a result of the abuse. Among those who had experienced any physical injury or other effects (such as emotional problems), around a quarter (28%) received some sort of medical attention.

Notes to editors

The Homicide Index is a live database that is continually updated as police investigations continue and cases come to court. Therefore, these figures are subject to change and will also differ from the provisional numbers published in 'Crime in England and Wales 2010/11', which come from the main recorded crime return.

'Homicides, Firearm Offences and Intimate Violence 2010/11: Supplementary Volume 2 to Crime in England and Wales 2010/11' is available online via the UK Statistics Authority website as well as the Home Office website:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/crime-research/hosb0212/>

Also published today is the Home Office response to the recent consultation on development to the British Crime Survey Intimate Personal Violence questionnaire:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/crime-research/consult-bcs-ipvq-2011/>

Another Home Office Statistical Bulletin, 'Crime in England and Wales: Quarterly Update to September 2011' is also being released today:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/crime-research/hosb0112/>