

Statistical Bulletin

Crime and Justice Series

A National Statistics Publication for Scotland

RECORDED CRIMES AND OFFENCES INVOLVING FIREARMS, SCOTLAND, 2012-13 20 November 2013

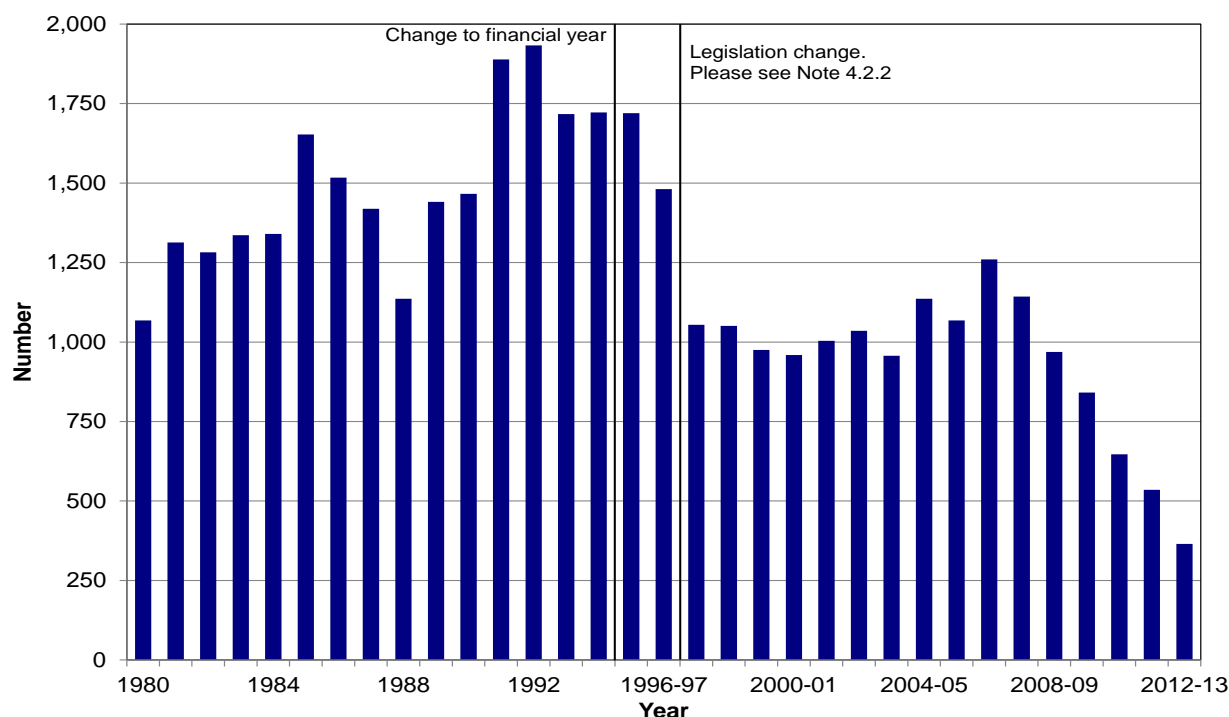


1. Introduction

This bulletin 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.

Chart 1: Offences involving the alleged use of a firearm, Scotland, 1980 to 1994 and 1995-96 to 2012-13



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2. Main Points

- In 2012-13, Scottish police forces recorded 365 offences in which a firearm was alleged to have been involved, a decrease of 32% from the 535 recorded in 2011-12. This is the lowest recorded total for the ten year period covered by this bulletin ([Table 1](#)).
- The number of Homicides involving a firearm decreased from five in 2011-12 to one in 2012-13. The number of Attempted murders involving a firearm decreased by 82%, falling from 11 offences in 2011-12 to two in 2012-13 ([Table 1](#)).
- The number of Robberies involving the use of a firearm decreased from 82 in 2011-12 to 39 in 2012-13, a decrease of 52%. The number of offences of Reckless conduct with a firearm fell by 40% between 2011-12 and 2012-13 ([Table 1](#)).
- A total of 17 Vandalism offences involving the alleged use of a firearm were recorded in 2012-13, falling by 35% from the 26 offences recorded in 2011-12. The number of Common assaults involving a firearm decreased by 28%, from 99 in 2011-12 to 71 in 2012-13 ([Table 1](#)).
- The use of firearms in criminal activity continued to constitute only a small proportion of all offences recorded by the police in 2012-13; 1.5% of Homicides (one offence), 0.6% of Attempted murders (two offences) and 2.1% of Robberies (39 offences). Less than 0.5% of all Serious assaults, Vandalism offences and Common assaults involved the alleged use of a firearm ([Table 2](#)).
- Air weapons accounted for 47% (171) of all offences involving the alleged involvement of a firearm in 2012-13, compared to 37% (197) in 2011-12 ([Table 3](#)).
- Between 2011-12 and 2012-13, the number of offences involving each of the different categories of firearms decreased, with the exception of offences involving a rifle. Offences involving a rifle increased to 16 offences in 2012-13 compared to 6 offences in 2011-12 ([Table 3](#)).
- The number of offences in which a firearm was discharged and caused fatal or non-fatal injury decreased by 31% from 95 in 2011-12 to 66 in 2012-13 ([Table 5](#)).
- Of the 66 main victims who were either fatally or non-fatally injured during an offence in which a firearm was discharged in 2012-13, 41 were male (62%) and 25 were female (38%). Of these victims, 19 were aged between 11 and 15 years (29%) and five were aged 10 years and under (8%). There were no reported offences involving the shooting of a police officer causing fatal or non-fatal injury ([Table 10](#)).

- In 2012-13, 66% of all offences in which a firearm was alleged to have been involved were cleared up, a decrease of five percentage points from the 71% in 2011-12. This is still the third highest clear up rate after 2010-11 and 2011-12, recorded in the ten year period covered by this bulletin ([Table 11](#)).
- In 2012-13, the main accused was aged 15 years or under in 16% (38 offences) of the 241 cleared up offences involving the use of a firearm. A further 24% (59 offences) of cleared up offences were committed by an accused aged 16 to 20 years ([Table 12](#)).

3. Commentary

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.

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 17](#). For further information please see [Note 4.1.2](#).

The statistics on firearm offences are used to inform [National Outcome 9](#) – ‘we live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger’ as well as [The Strategy for Justice in Scotland](#). These statistics are also used by a wide range of stakeholders to monitor trends, for policy research and development, and for research purposes. The ‘Recorded Crimes and Offences Involving Firearms, Scotland’ statistical bulletin forms part of a series of bulletins produced by the Scottish Government on the criminal justice system.

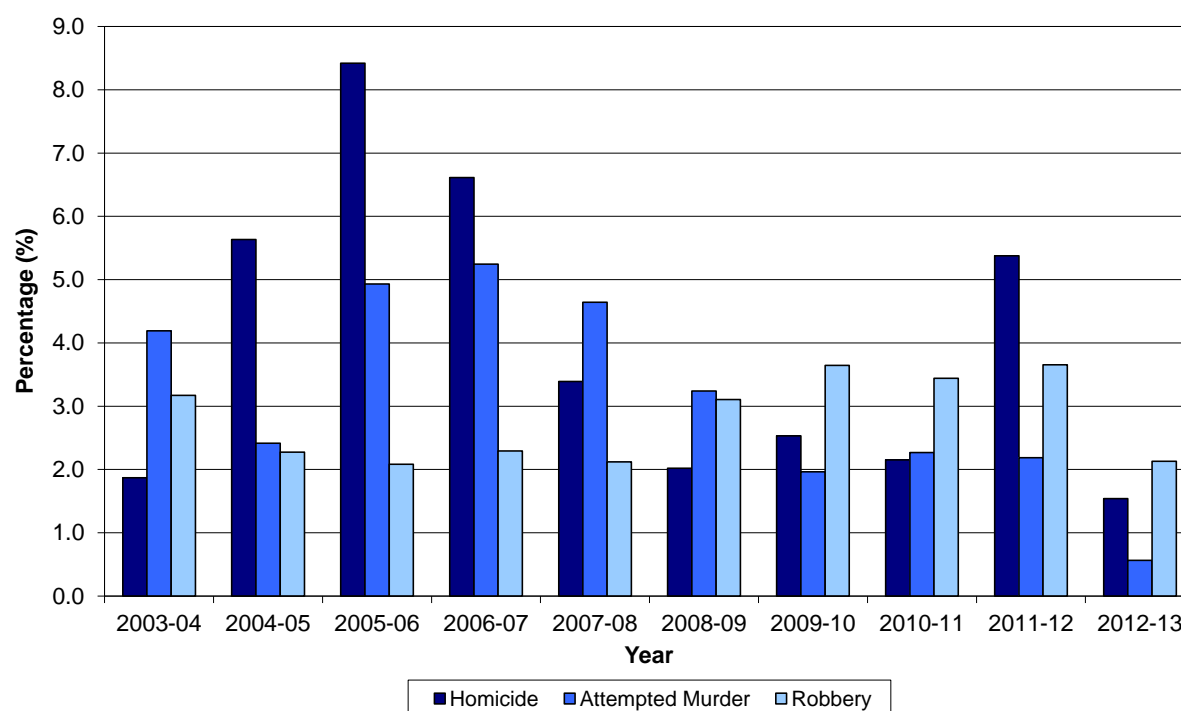
The Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 changed the policing landscape in Scotland, replacing the previous eight police forces, the Scottish Police Services Authority and the Scottish Crime and Drug Enforcement Agency from 1 April 2013. The Police Service of Scotland is now responsible for operational policing in Scotland and will be held to account by the Scottish Police Authority. The statistics set out in this bulletin cover the year immediately preceding the establishment of the Police Service of Scotland.

3.1 Offences involving firearms (Tables [1](#), [1a](#) and [2](#), and Charts [1](#) and [2](#))

- In 2012-13, Scottish police forces recorded 365 offences in which a firearm was alleged to have been involved, a decrease of 32% from the number recorded in 2011-12 (535). This is the sixth year in a row that there has been a decrease in the total number of offences in which a firearm was alleged to have been involved. In addition, this is the lowest recorded total for the ten year period covered by this bulletin.
- The offence categories which contained the highest number of offences in which a firearm was alleged to have been involved in 2012-13 were Reckless conduct with firearms and Common assault, each accounted for 19% of all recorded offences involving a firearm. This follows on from 2011-12 when Reckless conduct with firearms, constituted the highest proportion of recorded offences involving a firearm (22%). In 2011-12, offences of Common assault constituted the second highest proportion of recorded offences involving a firearm (19%).
- The Breach of the peace etc. offence category constituted a further 18% of offences in which a firearm was alleged to have been involved in 2012-13. This is an increase of four percentage points compared to 2011-12.

- In 2012-13, one Homicide involving a firearm was recorded, a decrease of four on the number that were recorded in 2011-12. The number of Attempted murders involving a firearm decreased by nine, falling from 11 offences in 2011-12 to two in 2012-13, a decrease of 82%.
- The number of Serious assaults involving a firearm decreased by one offence between 2011-12 and 2012-13, reducing from seven offences to six, whilst the number of Robberies involving a firearm decreased by just over a half from the 82 recorded offences in 2011-12, to 39 in 2012-13.
- With the exception of Breach of the peace etc. and 'Other crimes and offences', all other types of offence are at their lowest level in the ten year period covered by this bulletin. Since 2003-04, the first year in the time period covered by this bulletin, offences of Attempted murder, Serious assault and Vandalism have all decreased by over 90%.
- When air weapons and unidentified weapons are excluded, the total number of offences involving a firearm in 2012-13 decreased by 41%, from 285 offences in 2011-12 to 168 offences.
- The largest offence categories in 2012-13, when air weapons and unidentified weapons were excluded, were Breach of peace etc., Robbery and 'Other crimes and offences', which each constituted 20% of the overall number of offences involving a firearm. When looking at the actual number of offences, there were 34 offences of Breach of the peace etc. and 33 offences each of Robbery and 'Other crimes and offences'. Common assaults made up 18% of the remaining offences when air weapons and unidentified weapons were excluded in 2012-13.
- The use of firearms in criminal activity continued to constitute only a small proportion of all offences recorded by the police in 2012-13, as shown in [Chart 2](#); 1.5% of Homicides (one offence), 0.6% of Attempted murders (two offences) and 2.1% of Robberies (39 offences). Less than 0.5% of all Serious assaults, Vandalism offences and Common assaults involved the alleged use of a firearm. For further information please see [Note 4.4.8](#).

Chart 2: Offences in which a firearm was alleged to have been involved, as a percentage of (selected) total recorded crimes¹, Scotland, 2003-04 to 2012-13



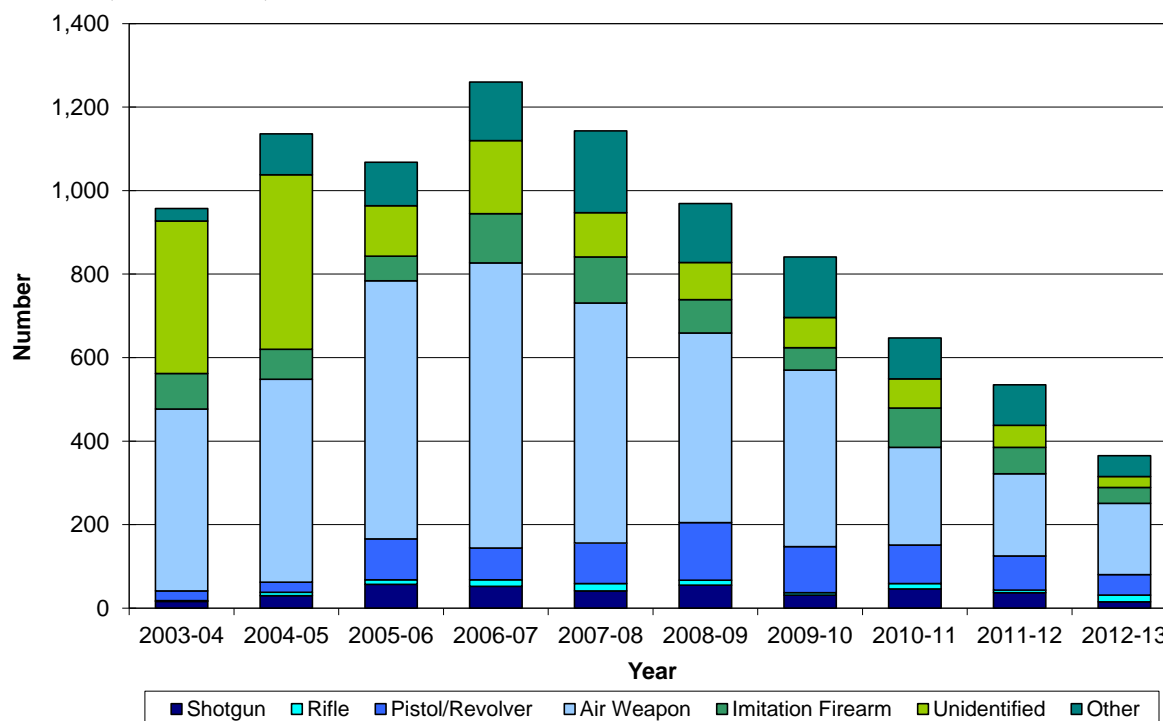
1. For further information please see [Note 4.4.8](#).

3.2 Main firearm recorded (Tables [3](#), [3a](#) and [4](#), and [Chart 3](#))

- Air weapons accounted for 47% (171) of all offences involving the alleged use of a firearm in 2012-13, up from 37% (197) in 2011-12. However, the number of offences involving the use of an air weapon did decrease by 13% between 2011-12 and 2012-13.
- Between 2011-12 and 2012-13, the number of offences involving each of the different categories of firearms decreased, with the exception of offences involving a rifle. Offences involving a rifle increased to 16 offences in 2012-13 compared to 6 offences in 2011-12.
- The largest decrease was of 59% for offences involving a shotgun, with the number of offences decreasing from 37 in 2011-12 to 15 in 2012-13. Excluding the category where the weapon was unidentified, the second largest decrease was 48% for the 'other' firearms category, where the number of offences decreased from 97 to 50. This was followed by a 40% decrease in the number of recorded offences involving a pistol/revolver. There was also a decrease of 40% in the number of recorded offences involving an imitation firearm between 2011-12 and 2012-13.
- 'Other' firearms were used in 14% of offences involving the alleged use of a firearm in 2012-13. 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 one Homicide involving a firearm in 2012-13 was committed using a shotgun. Of the two Attempted murders recorded as involving a firearm, the main weapon was identified as an air weapon for one offence with the other weapon being unidentified. Of the Robberies involving the alleged use of a firearm, 62% (24 out of the 39 offences) were committed with a pistol/revolver.
- An air weapon was alleged to have been used in 15 of the 17 offences of Vandalism (88%) in 2012-13. An air weapon was also used in 80% of Reckless conduct with firearms offences and 55% of Common assaults.
- As can be seen from [Chart 3](#), the overall number of offences that involved the alleged use of a firearm in Scotland has been decreasing since 2006-07, the high point in the ten year period covered by this bulletin. With the exception of offences involving a rifle, where there has been no change over this period, the trend in the number of offences alleged to have involved each of the different categories of firearms has been downward. The number of offences where the weapon was unidentified has decreased by 85% since 2006-07 and offences involving the alleged use of an air weapon have decreased by 75%.

Chart 3: Main firearm recorded in offences involving the alleged use of a firearm, Scotland, 2003-04 to 2012-13



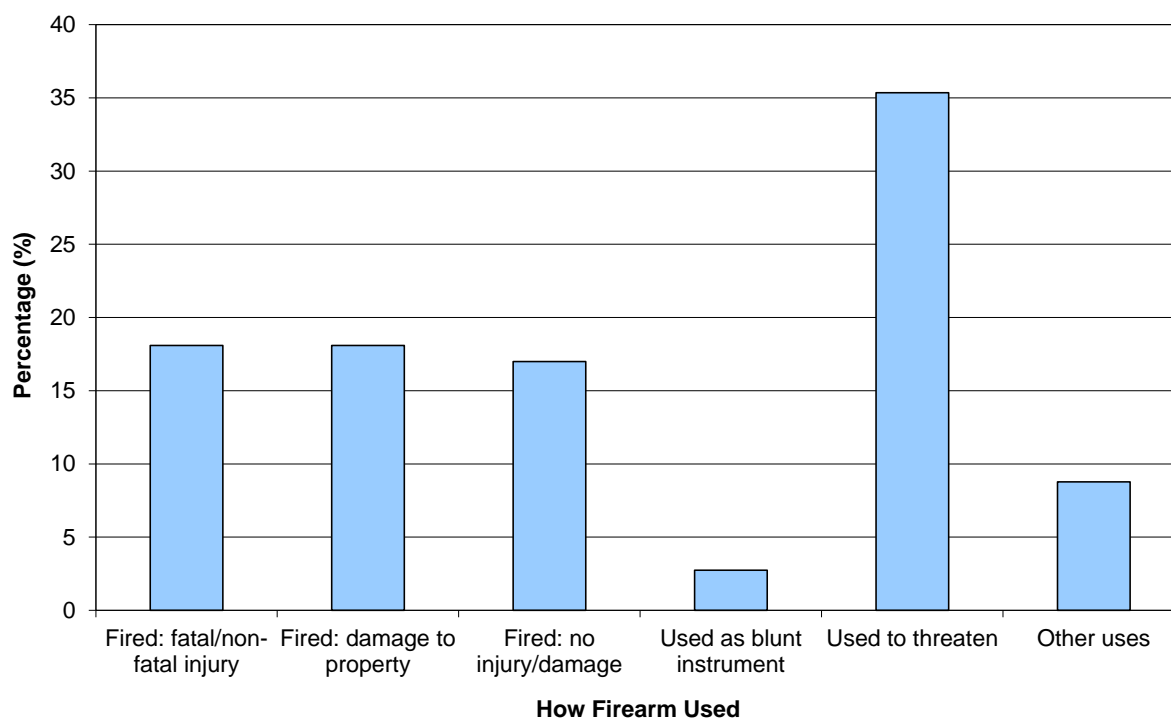
3.3 Firearm use (Tables 5, 5a, 6, 7, 8 and 8a, and Chart 4)

- Of the 365 recorded offences involving a firearm in Scotland in 2012-13, 53% (194) resulted in the actual discharge of the firearm. This is the third year in a row that the proportion of offences that involved the actual discharge of the firearm has been 53% and the lowest proportion of offences that resulted in the actual discharge of the firearm in the ten year period covered by this bulletin. The breakdown of how the main firearm recorded was used in

offences involving the alleged use of a firearm in 2012-13 can be seen in [Chart 4](#).

- The number of offences in which a firearm was fired and caused fatal or non-fatal injury to a person decreased by 31% between 2011-12 and 2012-13 (95 to 66 offences).
- The number of offences in which a firearm was discharged causing no injury or damage decreased by 46% from 114 in 2011-12 to 62 in 2012-13. Property damage resulting from a fired weapon decreased by 14%, falling from 77 in 2011-12 to 66 in 2012-13.
- Of the 194 offences in which a firearm was actually discharged in 2012-13, 68% (132) involved an air weapon. Of these offences involving an air weapon, 43 resulted in non-fatal injury to a person and 48 resulted in damage to property.

Chart 4: How main firearm recorded was used in offences involving the alleged use of a firearm, Scotland, 2012-13



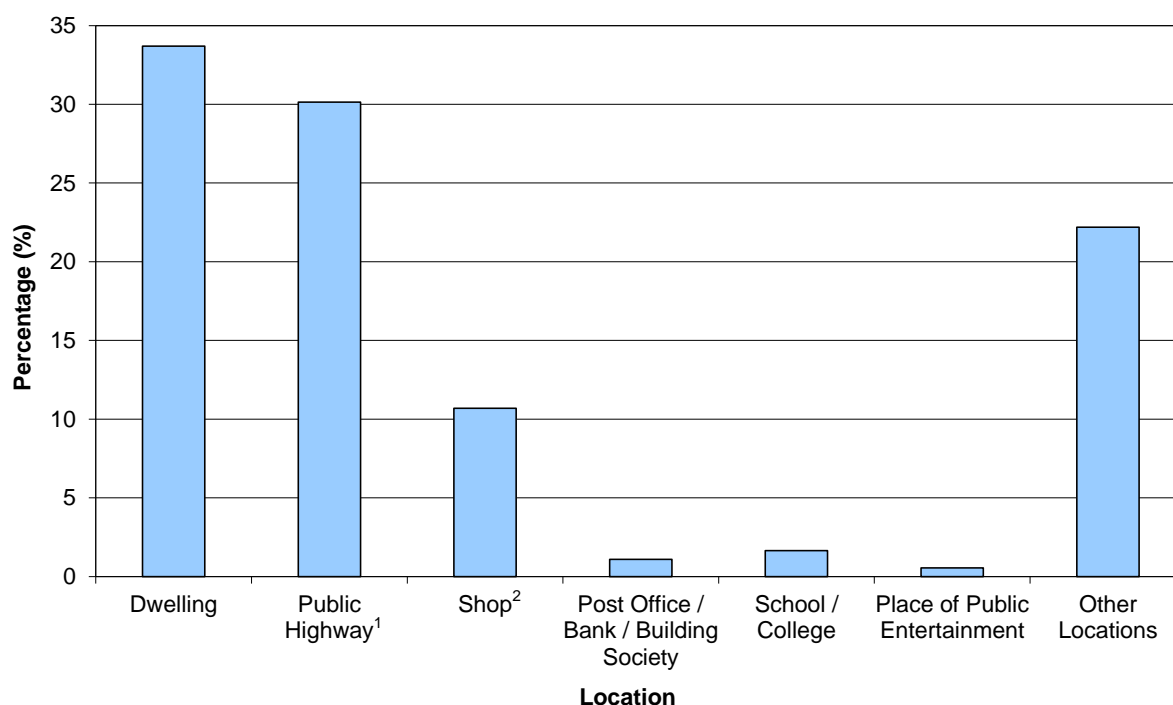
- Of the 71 Common assaults involving a firearm that were recorded in 2012-13, 41 resulted in the weapon being discharged and causing non-fatal injury. This accounts for almost two thirds of the 65 recorded offences in which a firearm was fired and caused non-fatal injury.
- The number of recorded offences in which a firearm was used to threaten decreased by 35% between 2011-12 and 2012-13 (197 to 129 offences), the lowest number recorded in the ten year period covered by this bulletin. The number of 'other uses' decreased by 18% (39 to 32 offences). In 84% of offences that involved a pistol/revolver (41 out of 49 offences) in 2012-13, the weapon was used to threaten.

- In 2012-13, a weapon was used to threaten in 92% of recorded Robberies involving a firearm (36 out of 39 offences), reflecting the nature of such crimes. In 69% of both Firearms Act 1968 offences and Breach of the peace etc. offences, a weapon was used to threaten.

3.4 Location of firearm offence (Tables 9 and 9a, and Chart 5)

- Of the 365 recorded offences involving a firearm in 2012-13, 123 occurred in a dwelling (34%), whilst 110 took place on a public highway (30%), where public highways include roads and footpaths. In addition, 81 offences (22%) occurred in 'other locations', such as licensed premises, and 39 offences occurred in shops (11%). Chart 5 shows the distribution of offences involving the alleged use of a firearm by location in 2012-13.
- In 2012-13 there were six offences that occurred in a school/college involving the alleged use of a firearm. This is the lowest number of offences to have occurred in a school/college in the ten year period covered by this bulletin. In total, only six offences involving the alleged use of a firearm occurred within post offices, banks/building societies and places of public entertainment in 2012-13. This is only 2% of all offences involving the alleged use of a firearm in 2012-13.

Chart 5: Location of offences involving the alleged use of a firearm, Scotland, 2012-13



1. Public highway includes roads and footpaths.
2. Shop includes shops, stalls, stores, offices and factories

3.5 Victim characteristics (Tables [10](#) and [10a](#))

- Of the 66 main victims who were either fatally or non-fatally injured during an offence in which a firearm was alleged to have been discharged in 2012-13, 41 were male (62%) and 25 were female (38%). There were no reported offences involving the shooting of a police officer causing fatal or non-fatal injury in 2012-13.
- There was an increase of 39% in the number of female victims in 2012-13 compared to 2011-12 (18 victims to 25 victims) and a decrease of 47% in the number of male victims (77 victims to 41 victims). As a result, the proportion of female victims (38%) who were either fatally or non-fatally injured during an offence in which a firearm was alleged to have been discharged in 2012-13, is the highest in the ten year period covered by this bulletin. This follows on from 2011-12, where the proportion of female victims (19%) was the lowest in the period covered by this bulletin.
- In 2012-13, 19 main victims were aged between 11 and 15 years (29%) and five were aged 10 years or under (8%). A further 19 (29%) main victims were aged 31 or over.
- There was an 11 percentage point increase in the proportion of victims aged 16 to 20 years old in 2012-13 (18% of victims) compared to 2011-12 (7% of victims). The 16 to 20 years old age group was the only group where the number of victims increased in 2012-13 compared to 2011-12. The increase of five victims was due to the increase in female victims, as the number of males victims aged 16 to 20 years remained the same in both 2011-12 and 2012-13.

3.6 Clear up rates ([Table 11](#))

- In 2012-13, 66% of all offences in which a firearm was alleged to have been involved were cleared up, a decrease of five percentage points from 71% in 2011-12. This is still the third highest clear up rate recorded in the ten year period covered by this bulletin. The clear up rate in 2012-13 is 26 percentage points higher than it was in 2003-04, the first year in the time period covered by this bulletin. For further information on clear up rates please see [Note 4.3](#).
- In 2012-13, the clear up rate for Homicides remained at 100% for the third year in a row. The clear up rate for Attempted murders involving a firearm also remained at 100% in 2012-13, as it was in 2011-12. The clear up rate for Serious assaults rose from 71% to 100% in 2012-13.
- The clear up rate for 'Other crimes and offences' increased by ten percentage points from 51% in 2011-12 to 61% 2012-13. The clear up rate for Breach of the peace etc. was unchanged from the level recorded in 2011-12 at 82%.
- The clear up rate for Vandalism increased by 12 percentage points from 12% in 2011-12 to 24% in 2012-13. The clear up rate has almost returned to the level recorded in 2010-11 and is the second highest in the ten year period

covered by this bulletin. Due to the nature of the offence of Vandalism, the clear up rates for Vandalism offences have historically been low.

- The clear up rate for Robberies involving a firearm decreased from 59% in 2011-12 to 56% in 2012-13, although this remains the second highest clear up rate for Robberies in the last ten years. The clear up rate for Firearms Act 1968 offences decreased by 21 percentage points from 96% in 2011-12 to 75% in 2012-13. This is the lowest clear up rate for Firearms Act 1968 offences in the ten year period covered by this bulletin.
- The clear up rate for Reckless conduct with firearms offences decreased by seven percentage points, from 70% in 2011-12 to 63% in 2012-13. The clear up rate of 70% in 2011-12 is the highest rate recorded in the ten year period covered by this bulletin. The clear up rate in 2012-13 is consistent with the clear up rates recorded between 2007-08 and 2010-11, which ranged from 61% to 64%.
- The clear up rate for Common assaults decreased by ten percentage points between 2011-12 and 2012-13 to 65%. This is the second year in a row the clear up rate for Common assaults has decreased. The clear up rate for Common assaults is now at its lowest level since 2006-07.

3.7 Accused characteristics (Tables [12](#) and [13](#))

- The main accused was aged 15 years or under in 16% of cleared up offences involving the use of a firearm in 2012-13 (38 out of 241 offences). A further 24% of cleared up offences were committed by an accused aged 16 to 20 years (59 offences). The highest proportion of offences cleared up were those where the main accused was aged 21 to 30 years (31%). This is the fifth year in a row that the highest proportion of offences cleared up were those where the main accused was aged 21 to 30 years
- In 2012-13, where the main accused was aged 15 years or under, just over half of offences involved the use of an air weapon (20 out of 38 offences). An air weapon was also involved in 46% of offences committed by a main accused aged 16 to 20 years. The proportion of offences involving an air weapon decreased where the main accused were aged 21 to 30 years and aged 31 to 40 years, where the proportions were 39% and 38% respectively. The proportion of offences involving an air weapon for those main accused aged 41 years or over was 45%.

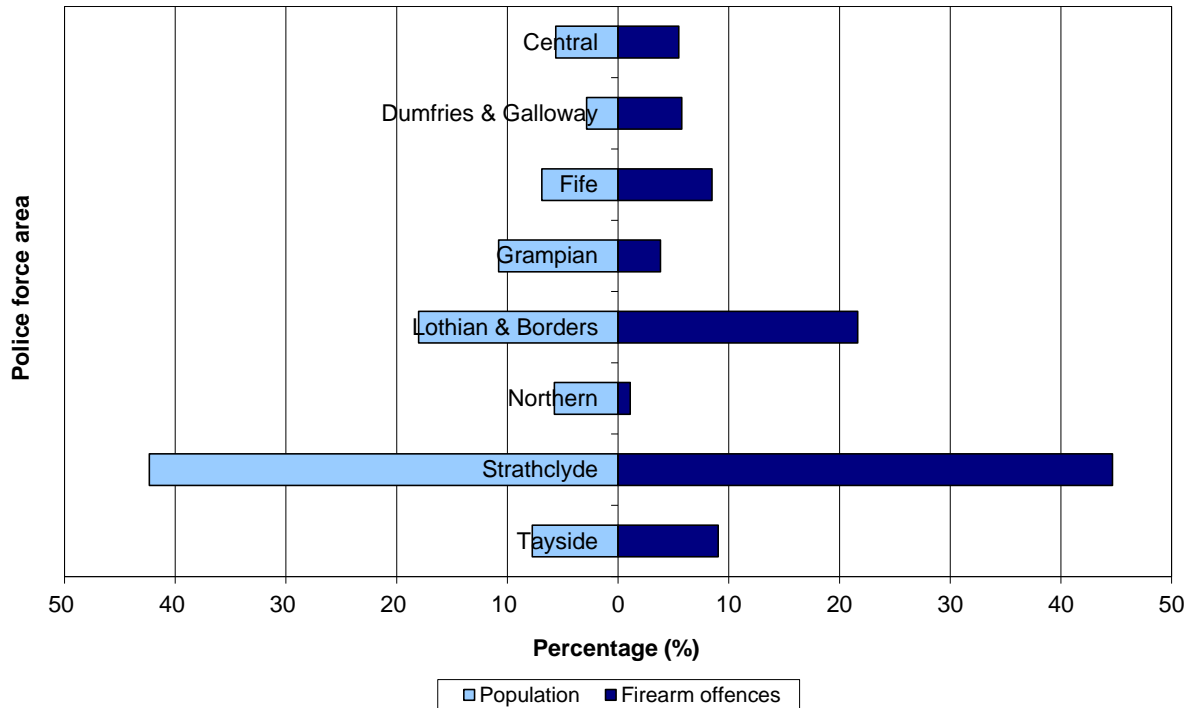
3.8 Offences by police force area (Tables [14](#), [14a](#), [15](#) and [15a](#), and [Chart 6](#))

- When considering the trends in the number of offences in which a firearm was alleged to have been used by police force area, it should be noted that with the exception of the Lothian and Borders Police and Strathclyde Police force areas, the number of offences recorded in each of the remaining six forces are relatively small. As a result, small changes in the number of offences in which a firearm was alleged to have been used can lead to large changes in percentage terms.

- There were increases in the number of offences in which a firearm was alleged to have been used recorded by three of the eight police forces in 2012-13 compared to 2011-12. The forces where the number of offences recorded increased were: Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary, Fife Constabulary and Grampian Police. For each of these three forces, the number of offences in which a firearm was alleged to have been used increased by more than 50% between 2011-12 and 2012-13.
- The number of offences recorded in the Central Scotland Police force area in which a firearm was alleged to have been used remained at 20 in 2012-13, as it had been in 2011-12.
- Decreases in the number of offences in which a firearm was alleged to have been used were recorded in the Lothian and Borders Police, Northern Constabulary, Strathclyde Police, and Tayside Police force areas. The number of offences in which a firearm was alleged to have been used recorded in the Lothian and Borders Police, Strathclyde Police, and Tayside Police force areas are now at their lowest levels in the ten year period covered by this bulletin. It is the sixth year in a row that the number of offences recorded in Strathclyde Police force areas has decreased and the fifth year in a row for the Tayside Police force area.
- [Chart 6](#) shows the distribution of offences in which a firearm was alleged to have been used in 2012-13 by police force area compared to the proportion of the Scottish population they contained in 2012.
- The Strathclyde Police force area, which contained 42% of the estimated population of Scotland in 2012, accounted for 45% (163) of all offences in which a firearm was alleged to have been used in 2012-13. This a decrease of two percentage points compared to 2011-12.
- More specifically, both of the Attempted murders (100%); four Serious assaults (67%), 25 Robberies (64%) and 33 Common assaults (46%) in which a firearm was involved, were recorded within the Strathclyde Police force area in 2012-13.
- The 54% decrease in the number of offences in which a firearm was alleged to have been used, recorded in the Lothian and Borders Police force area between 2011-12 and 2012-13, is reflected in the change in the proportion of offences recorded within the force area. In both 2011 and 2012 the Lothian and Borders Police force area contained 18% of the Scottish population but the proportion of offences recorded in the force area decreased by ten percentage points from 32% in 2011-12 to 22% in 2012-13.
- For both Breach of the peace etc. and 'Other crimes and offences' 27% of offences were recorded within the Lothian and Borders Police force area in 2012-13. The one Homicide involving the alleged use of a firearm in 2012-13 was recorded within the Lothian and Borders Police force area as well as two of the six Serious assaults recorded in 2012-13.

- The Grampian Police force area contained 11% of the population of Scotland in 2012 but only 4% of offences in which a firearm was alleged to have been used were recorded within the force area in 2012-13.

Chart 6: Location profile by police force area of offences in which a firearm was alleged to have been involved compared to population¹ profile, Scotland, 2012-13



1. Population estimates as at mid-year 2012 from the National Records of Scotland (<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/theme/population/estimates/mid-year/2012/index.html>)

3.9 Stolen firearms (Table 16)

- During 2012-13, Scottish police forces recorded 27 offences in which a firearm (other than an air weapon) was stolen, an increase of 12 from the 15 offences recorded in 2011-12.
- The number of offences in which the main type of weapon stolen was a shotgun increased from three in 2011-12 to nine in 2012-13. Six offences involved stealing rifles in 2012-13, an increase of four offences compared to 2011-12. Following no offences where a pistol/revolver was stolen in 2011-12, there were two in 2012-13. In 2012-13, there were ten reported offences where the main type of firearm stolen was 'other firearms', which is the same number as in 2011-12.

3.10 Miscellaneous firearm offences (Table 17)

- The number of Miscellaneous firearm offences, mainly relating to the possession, handling and distribution of weapons and ammunition, decreased by 22% from 620 in 2011-12 to 484 in 2012-13. This is the sixth year in row

there has been a decrease in the number of Miscellaneous firearm offences and the 484 offences recorded in 2012-13 is the lowest number in the ten year period covered by this bulletin. For further information on these Miscellaneous firearm offences, please see [Note 4.1.2](#).

- There were decreases in the number of Miscellaneous firearm offences recorded in six of the eight police forces areas between 2011-12 and 2012-13. The exceptions being the Lothian and Borders Police and Tayside Police force areas, where there were increases of 16% and 7% respectively. The largest decrease was of 41% recorded in both the Central Scotland Police and Fife Constabulary force areas.

Table 1: Offences in which a firearm was alleged to have been involved, Scotland, 2003-04 to 2012-13

Type of Offence	Number & Percentage										
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 ¹	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13 ²	% change 11-12 to 12-13
Homicide ³	2	8	8	8	4	2	2	2	5	1	n/r
Attempted murder	31	20	35	43	33	23	11	13	11	2	-82
Serious assault ⁴	67	48	20	19	37	15	19	12	7	6	n/r
Robbery	132	85	74	82	65	92	91	88	82	39	-52
Vandalism	344	408	396	204	124	129	94	39	26	17	-35
Reckless conduct with firearms ⁵	137	169	124	291	294	235	196	135	119	71	-40
Firearms Act 1968 offences ⁶	115	120	152	196	152	126	89	86	73	32	-56
Common assault ^{4,7,8}	104	229	143	200	201	145	164	110	99	71	-28
Breach of the peace etc. ^{8,9}	15	21	58	176	184	135	121	80	74	67	-9
Other crimes and offences	10	28	58	41	49	67	54	82	39	59	51
Total	957	1,136	1,068	1,260	1,143	969	841	647	535	365	-32

Notes:

1. There have been minor amendments to the data for 2005-06. For further information please see [Note 4.4.6](#).
2. As a result of a change in recording practices by Lothian and Borders Police, their data for 2012-13 are not directly comparable with previous years. For further information please see [Note 4.4.7](#).
3. Includes Murder and Culpable homicide (common law). It excludes Causing death by dangerous driving, Causing death by careless driving while under the influence of drink or drugs, Causing death by careless driving, Illegal driver involved in a fatal accident and Corporate homicide.
4. For the distinction between Serious assault and Common assault, please see [Note 4.5.2](#).
5. A change in recording practices has affected the comparability of this category over time. For further information please see [Note 4.4.4](#).
6. 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 17](#).
7. Common assault includes the offences of Common assault and Common assault of an emergency worker.
8. A change in recording practices has affected the comparability of this category over time. For further information please see [Note 4.4.5](#).
9. Includes Breach of the peace and Threatening or abusive behaviour. Breach of the peace etc. also includes Offence of stalking, Offensive behaviour at football and Threatening communications (Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications Act 2012). However these are not relevant to firearm offences.

Table 1a: Offences in which an identified firearm, other than an air weapon, was alleged to have been involved, Scotland, 2003-04 to 2012-13

Type of Offence	Number & Percentage										
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13 ¹	% change 11-12 to 12-13
Homicide ²	1	2	5	4	2	1	1	2	4	1	n/r
Attempted murder	4	13	19	21	24	18	8	13	8	-	-
Serious assault ³	16	3	3	3	13	5	2	4	3	3	-
Robbery	29	24	56	50	41	68	65	71	48	33	-31
Vandalism	3	15	27	19	23	10	17	13	9	1	n/r
Reckless conduct with firearms	11	10	42	51	58	51	40	35	37	12	-68
Firearms Act 1968 offences ⁴	59	62	80	85	87	80	51	61	59	21	-64
Common assault ^{3,5,6}	21	77	52	72	100	83	82	52	54	30	-44
Breach of the peace etc. ^{6,7}	8	10	32	82	90	75	56	47	40	34	-15
Other crimes and offences	4	16	13	15	24	35	24	45	23	33	43
Total	156	232	329	402	462	426	346	343	285	168	-41

Notes:

1. As a result of a change in recording practices by Lothian and Borders Police, their data for 2012-13 are not directly comparable with previous years. For further information please see [Note 4.4.7](#).
2. Includes Murder and Culpable homicide (common law). It excludes Causing death by dangerous driving, Causing death by careless driving while under the influence of drink or drugs, Causing death by careless driving, Illegal driver involved in a fatal accident and Corporate homicide.
3. For the distinction between Serious assault and Common assault, please see [Note 4.5.2](#).
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 17](#).
5. Common assault includes the offences of Common assault and Common assault of an emergency worker.
6. A change in recording practices has affected the comparability of this category over time. For further information please see [Note 4.4.5](#).
7. Includes Breach of the peace and Threatening or abusive behaviour. Breach of the peace etc. also includes Offence of stalking, Offensive behaviour at football and Threatening communications (Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications Act 2012). However these are not relevant to firearm offences.

Table 2: Offences in which a firearm was alleged to have been involved as a percentage¹ of (selected) total recorded crimes², Scotland, 2003-04 to 2012-13

Type of Offence	Percentage									
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13 ³
Homicide ⁴	1.9	5.6	8.4	6.6	3.4	2.0	2.5	2.2	5.4	1.5
Attempted murder	4.2	2.4	4.9	5.2	4.6	3.2	2.0	2.3	2.2	0.6
Serious assault ⁵	1.0	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2
Robbery	3.2	2.3	2.1	2.3	2.1	3.1	3.6	3.4	3.7	2.1
Vandalism ⁶	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	~	~
Common assault ^{5,7,8}	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1

Notes:

1. Some of the figures in this table are based on fewer than 100 recorded offences.
2. For further information on the selected total recorded crimes please see [Note 4.4.8](#).
3. As a result of a change in recording practices by Lothian and Borders Police, their data for 2012-13 are not directly comparable with previous years. For further information please see [Note 4.4.7](#).
4. Includes Murder and Culpable homicide (common law). It excludes Causing death by dangerous driving, Causing death by careless driving while under the influence of drink or drugs, Causing death by careless driving, Illegal driver involved in a fatal accident and Corporate homicide.
5. For the distinction between Serious assault and Common, assault please see [Note 4.5.2](#).
6. There have been minor amendments to the data for 2005-06. For further information please see [Note 4.4.6](#).
7. Common assault includes the offences of Common assault and Common assault of an emergency worker.
8. A change in recording practices has affected the comparability of this category over time. For further information please see [Note 4.4.5](#).

Table 3: Main firearm recorded in offences involving the alleged use of a firearm, Scotland, 2003-04 to 2012-13

Main Firearm Recorded ¹	Number & Percentage										
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13 ²	% change 11-12 to 12-13
Shotgun	16	30	57	52	41	55	31	46	37	15	-59
Rifle	2	8	11	16	18	12	6	13	6	16	n/r
Pistol/Revolver	23	24	98	76	97	138	110	92	82	49	-40
Air Weapon ³	436	486	618	683	575	454	423	234	197	171	-13
Imitation Firearm	85	72	59	118	110	80	54	94	63	38	-40
Unidentified ³	365	418	121	175	106	89	72	70	53	26	-51
Other	30	98	104	140	196	141	145	98	97	50	-48
Total identified firearms (excluding air weapons)	156	232	329	402	462	426	346	343	285	168	-41
Total	957	1,136	1,068	1,260	1,143	969	841	647	535	365	-32

Notes:

1. For further information on the main firearm recorded please see [Note 4.4.9](#).
2. As a result of a change in recording practices by Lothian and Borders Police, their data for 2012-13 are not directly comparable with previous years. For further information please see [Note 4.4.7](#).
3. A change in recording practices has affected the comparability of this category over time. For further information please see [Note 4.4.2](#).

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, 2003-04 to 2012-13

Main Firearm Recorded ¹	Percentage									
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13 ²
Shotgun	2	3	5	4	4	6	4	7	7	4
Rifle	*	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	4
Pistol/Revolver	2	2	9	6	8	14	13	14	15	13
Air Weapon ³	46	43	58	54	50	47	50	36	37	47
Imitation Firearm	9	6	6	9	10	8	6	15	12	10
Unidentified ³	38	37	11	14	9	9	9	11	10	7
Other	3	9	10	11	17	15	17	15	18	14
Total identified firearms (excluding air weapons)	16	20	31	32	40	44	41	53	53	46
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Notes:

1. For further information on the main firearm recorded please see [Note 4.4.9](#).
2. As a result of a change in recording practices by Lothian and Borders Police, their data for 2012-13 are not directly comparable with previous years. For further information please see [Note 4.4.7](#).
3. A change in recording practices has affected the comparability of this category over time. For further information please see [Note 4.4.2](#).

Table 4: Offences in which a firearm was alleged to have been involved by main firearm recorded, Scotland, 2012-13 **Number**

Type of Offence	Main Firearm Recorded ¹							Total
	Shotgun	Rifle	Pistol/ Revolver	Air Weapon	Imitation	Unidentified	Other	
Homicide ²	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Attempted murder	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2
Serious assault ³	-	1	-	3	1	-	1	6
Robbery	1	1	24	-	5	6	2	39
Vandalism	-	-	-	15	-	1	1	17
Reckless conduct with firearms	4	6	1	57	-	2	1	71
Firearms Act 1968 offences ⁴	2	1	5	9	9	2	4	32
Common assault ^{3,5}	-	1	5	39	6	2	18	71
Breach of the peace etc. ⁶	2	-	8	26	11	7	13	67
Other crimes and offences	5	6	6	21	6	5	10	59
Total	15	16	49	171	38	26	50	365

Notes:

1. For further information on the main firearm recorded please see [Note 4.4.9](#).
2. Includes Murder and Culpable homicide (common law). It excludes Causing death by dangerous driving, Causing death by careless driving while under the influence of drink or drugs, Causing death by careless driving, Illegal driver involved in a fatal accident and Corporate homicide.
3. For the distinction between Serious assault and Common assault, please see [Note 4.5.2](#).
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 17](#).
5. Common assault includes the offences of Common assault and Common assault of an emergency worker.
6. Includes Breach of the peace and Threatening or abusive behaviour. Breach of the peace etc. also includes Offence of stalking, Offensive behaviour at football and Threatening communications (Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications Act 2012). However these are not relevant to firearm offences.

Table 5: How main firearm recorded was used in offences involving the alleged use of a firearm, Scotland, 2003-04 to 2012-13

How Firearm Used	Number & Percentage										
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13 ¹	% change 11-12 to 12-13
Fired - fatal injury	2	8	8	8	4	2	2	2	5	1	n/r
Fired - non-fatal injury	239	316	189	240	208	140	152	109	90	65	-28
Fired - damage to property	415	500	499	314	222	211	175	91	77	66	-14
Fired - no injury/damage	26	61	68	231	286	223	186	139	114	62	-46
Total Fired	682	885	764	793	720	576	515	341	286	194	-32
Used as a blunt instrument	6	14	10	18	10	11	12	13	13	10	-23
Used to threaten	183	202	216	319	266	240	218	251	197	129	-35
Other uses	86	35	78	130	147	142	96	42	39	32	-18
Total	957	1,136	1,068	1,260	1,143	969	841	647	535	365	-32

Notes:

1. As a result of a change in recording practices by Lothian and Borders Police, their data for 2012-13 are not directly comparable with previous years. For further information please see [Note 4.4.7](#).

Table 5a: How main identified firearm, other than an air weapon, was used in offences involving the alleged use of a firearm, Scotland, 2003-04 to 2012-13

How Firearm Used	Number & Percentage										
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13 ¹	% change 11-12 to 12-13
Fired - fatal injury	1	2	5	4	2	1	1	2	4	1	n/r
Fired - non-fatal injury	31	73	61	74	104	59	69	55	39	22	-44
Fired - damage to property	9	19	40	32	46	31	34	27	23	12	-48
Fired - no injury/damage	10	23	34	62	72	67	48	50	45	19	-58
Total Fired	51	117	140	172	224	158	152	134	111	54	-51
Used as a blunt instrument	1	3	6	10	6	9	8	10	11	4	-64
Used to threaten	64	91	133	157	154	179	130	172	134	80	-40
Other uses	40	21	50	63	78	80	56	27	29	30	3
Total	156	232	329	402	462	426	346	343	285	168	-41

Notes:

1. As a result of a change in recording practices by Lothian and Borders Police, their data for 2012-13 are not directly comparable with previous years. For further information please see [Note 4.4.7](#).

Table 6: Main firearm recorded by how the weapon was used in offences involving the alleged use of a firearm, Scotland, 2012-13

How Firearm Used	Main Firearm Recorded ¹							Number
	Shotgun	Rifle	Pistol/ Revolver	Air Weapon	Imitation	Unidentified	Other	Total
Fired - fatal injury	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Fired - non-fatal injury	-	3	-	43	6	-	13	65
Fired - damage to property	5	3	1	48	1	6	2	66
Fired - no injury/damage	2	2	-	41	6	2	9	62
Total Fired	8	8	1	132	13	8	24	194
Used as a blunt instrument	-	-	2	6	2	-	-	10
Used to threaten	5	2	41	31	18	18	14	129
Other uses	2	6	5	2	5	-	12	32
Total	15	16	49	171	38	26	50	365

Notes:

1. For further information on the main firearm recorded please see [Note 4.4.9](#).

Table 7: Main firearm recorded in offences in which a weapon was alleged to have been fired causing fatal or non-fatal injury, Scotland, 2003-04 to 2012-13

Main Firearm Recorded ¹	Number & Percentage										
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13 ²	% change 11-12 to 12-13
Shotgun	2	6	11	14	11	5	7	4	7	1	n/r
Rifle	1	3	-	3	2	1	1	-	-	3	-
Pistol/Revolver	-	2	11	10	10	7	4	10	5	-	-
Air Weapon ³	100	96	121	145	94	71	78	48	51	43	-16
Imitation Firearm	12	11	2	5	6	1	1	7	-	6	-
Unidentified ³	109	153	10	25	12	11	6	6	1	-	-
Other	17	53	42	46	77	46	57	36	31	13	-58
Total identified firearms (excluding air weapons)	32	75	66	78	106	60	70	57	43	23	-47
Total	241	324	197	248	212	142	154	111	95	66	-31

Notes:

1. For further information on the main firearm recorded please see [Note 4.4.9](#).
2. As a result of a change in recording practices by Lothian and Borders Police, their data for 2012-13 are not directly comparable with previous years. For further information please see [Note 4.4.7](#).
3. A change in recording practices has affected the comparability of this category over time. For further information please see [Note 4.4.2](#).

Table 8: Offences in which a firearm was alleged to have been involved by how main firearm was used, Scotland, 2012-13
Number

Type of Offence	How Firearm Used							Total
	Fired: fatal injury	Fired: non-fatal injury	Fired: property damage	Fired: no injury/damage	Blunt instrument	Used to threaten	Other uses	
Homicide ¹	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Attempted murder	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	2
Serious assault ²	-	4	-	1	1	-	-	6
Robbery	-	2	-	-	1	36	-	39
Vandalism	-	-	16	-	1	-	-	17
Reckless conduct with firearms	-	12	22	31	1	1	4	71
Firearms Act 1968 offences ³	-	1	-	1	1	22	7	32
Common assault ^{2,4}	-	41	-	13	2	15	-	71
Breach of the peace etc. ⁵	-	1	2	7	1	46	10	67
Other crimes and offences	-	3	25	9	2	9	11	59
Total	1	65	66	62	10	129	32	365

Notes:

1. Includes Murder and Culpable homicide (common law). It excludes Causing death by dangerous driving, Causing death by careless driving while under the influence of drink or drugs, Causing death by careless driving, Illegal driver involved in a fatal accident and Corporate homicide.
2. For the distinction between Serious assault and Common assault, please see [Note 4.5.2](#).
3. 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 17](#).
4. Common assault includes the offences of Common assault and Common assault of an emergency worker.
5. Includes Breach of the peace and Threatening or abusive behaviour. Breach of the peace etc. also includes Offence of stalking, Offensive behaviour at football and Threatening communications (Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications Act 2012). However these are not relevant to firearm offences.

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, 2012-13

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 ¹	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Attempted murder	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Serious assault ²	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	3
Robbery	-	2	-	-	1	30	-	33
Vandalism	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Reckless conduct with firearms	-	2	2	4	-	-	4	12
Firearms Act 1968 offences ³	-	-	-	1	1	13	6	21
Common assault ^{2,4}	-	15	-	6	1	8	-	30
Breach of the peace etc. ⁵	-	-	1	2	-	21	10	34
Other crimes and offences	-	1	8	6	-	8	10	33
Total	1	22	12	19	4	80	30	168

Notes:

1. Includes Murder and Culpable homicide (common law). It excludes Causing death by dangerous driving, Causing death by careless driving while under the influence of drink or drugs, Causing death by careless driving, Illegal driver involved in a fatal accident and Corporate homicide.
2. For the distinction between Serious assault and Common assault, please see [Note 4.5.2](#).
3. 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 17](#).
4. Common assault includes the offences of Common assault and Common assault of an emergency worker.
5. Includes Breach of the peace and Threatening or abusive behaviour. Breach of the peace etc. also includes Offence of stalking, Offensive behaviour at football and Threatening communications (Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications Act 2012). However these are not relevant to firearm offences.

Table 9: Location of offences involving the alleged use of a firearm, Scotland, 2003-04 to 2012-13

Location of Offence	Number & Percentage										
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13 ¹	% change 11-12 to 12-13
Dwelling	331	411	450	378	386	331	278	219	188	123	-35
Public Highway ²	271	301	253	438	415	333	275	193	168	110	-35
Shop ³	93	103	79	100	65	79	78	45	41	39	-5
Post Office	15	12	3	9	2	6	6	1	3	1	n/r
Bank/Building Society	10	7	13	7	3	3	7	3	7	3	n/r
School/College	23	26	19	27	17	23	16	21	10	6	-40
Place of Public Entertainment	5	4	6	10	13	11	3	6	3	2	n/r
Other Locations	209	272	245	291	242	183	178	159	115	81	-30
Total	957	1,136	1,068	1,260	1,143	969	841	647	535	365	-32

Notes:

1. As a result of a change in recording practices by Lothian and Borders Police, their data for 2012-13 are not directly comparable with previous years. For further information please see [Note 4.4.7](#).
2. Includes roads and footpaths.
3. Includes shops, stalls, stores, offices and factories.

Table 9a: Location of offences in which an identified firearm, other than an air weapon, was alleged to have been involved, Scotland, 2003-04 to 2012-13

Location of Offence	Number & Percentage										
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13 ¹	% change 11-12 to 12-13
Dwelling	31	45	96	71	126	122	94	114	103	52	-50
Public Highway ²	44	75	90	156	195	161	120	92	95	47	-51
Shop ³	20	22	25	51	36	48	50	29	27	27	-
Post Office	3	6	2	7	1	4	4	1	3	1	n/r
Bank/Building Society	3	2	11	3	3	1	7	2	6	1	n/r
School/College	4	9	8	11	9	13	13	15	7	1	n/r
Place of Public Entertainment	4	1	2	4	6	5	3	3	1	-	-
Other Locations	47	72	95	99	86	72	55	87	43	39	-9
Total	156	232	329	402	462	426	346	343	285	168	-41

Notes:

1. As a result of a change in recording practices by Lothian and Borders Police, their data for 2012-13 are not directly comparable with previous years. For further information please see [Note 4.4.7](#).
2. Includes roads and footpaths.
3. Includes shops, stalls, stores, offices and factories

Table 10: Age and gender of main victim in offences in which a firearm was alleged to have been fired causing fatal or non-fatal injury, Scotland, 2003-04 to 2012-13

Age and Gender of Main Victim	Number									
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
All victims	241	324	197	248	212	142	154	111	95	66
10 or under	30	52	29	30	38	21	25	19	12	5
11 to 15	73	92	47	60	46	25	43	39	30	19
16 to 20	30	46	21	37	21	17	30	7	7	12
21 to 30	27	42	26	53	39	27	19	17	20	11
31 or over	81	92	74	68	68	52	37	29	26	19
Male victims	175	208	132	190	154	104	105	81	77	41
10 or under	24	36	18	22	29	15	16	9	10	4
11 to 15	49	47	28	44	30	20	20	23	24	13
16 to 20	24	27	11	29	14	11	24	6	5	5
21 to 30	22	34	20	43	36	22	17	16	15	8
31 or over	56	64	55	52	45	36	28	27	23	11
Female victims	64	116	64	57	57	38	49	29	18	25
10 or under	6	16	11	8	9	6	9	10	2	1
11 to 15	24	45	19	16	16	5	23	16	6	6
16 to 20	6	19	10	8	7	6	6	1	2	7
21 to 30	4	8	6	9	3	5	2	-	5	3
31 or over	24	28	18	16	22	16	9	2	3	8
Police Officer	2	-	1	1	1	-	-	1	-	-

Table 10a: Age and gender 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, 2003-04 to 2012-13

Age and Gender of Main Victim	Number									
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
All victims	32	75	66	78	106	60	70	57	43	23
10 or under	10	25	14	10	27	13	10	14	6	2
11 to 15	15	21	14	20	24	9	22	19	14	7
16 to 20	2	3	5	6	9	7	13	2	4	2
21 to 30	-	6	4	19	22	12	7	7	12	4
31 or over	5	20	29	23	24	19	18	15	7	8
Male victims	22	43	46	64	82	46	44	38	31	12
10 or under	9	17	8	9	21	11	4	6	4	2
11 to 15	8	6	8	14	18	8	11	12	10	4
16 to 20	1	1	1	5	7	3	10	1	2	1
21 to 30	-	6	3	18	20	11	6	6	8	2
31 or over	4	13	26	18	16	13	13	13	7	3
Female victims	10	32	19	14	24	14	26	18	12	11
10 or under	1	8	6	1	6	2	6	8	2	-
11 to 15	7	15	6	6	6	1	11	7	4	3
16 to 20	1	2	4	1	2	4	3	1	2	1
21 to 30	-	-	1	1	2	1	1	-	4	2
31 or over	1	7	2	5	8	6	5	2	-	5
Police Officer	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-

Table 11: Percentage¹ of offences involving the alleged use of a firearm that were cleared up², Scotland, 2003-04 to 2012-13

Type of Offence	Percentage									
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 ³	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Homicide ⁴	50	63	88	100	50	-	50	100	100	100
Attempted murder	48	40	66	40	58	52	45	54	100	100
Serious assault ⁵	57	35	55	47	54	40	53	75	71	100
Robbery	46	48	30	46	52	54	35	49	59	56
Vandalism	8	3	9	6	13	10	10	26	12	24
Reckless conduct with firearms	47	45	48	58	64	61	64	62	70	63
Firearms Act 1968 offences ⁶	90	83	88	90	86	93	89	86	96	75
Common assault ^{5,7}	57	58	64	62	67	67	74	81	75	65
Breach of the peace etc. ⁸	87	90	88	81	86	76	79	80	82	82
Other crimes and offences	50	64	38	71	63	54	56	68	51	61
Total	40	38	43	58	64	60	61	68	71	66

Notes:

1. Some of the figures in this table are based on fewer than 100 recorded offences.
2. For further information of the definition of offences being cleared up please see [Note 4.3](#).
3. There have been minor amendments to the data for 2005-06. For further information please see [Note 4.4.6](#).
4. Includes Murder and Culpable homicide (common law). It excludes Causing death by dangerous driving, Causing death by careless driving while under the influence of drink or drugs, Causing death by careless driving, Illegal driver involved in a fatal accident and Corporate homicide.
5. For the distinction between Serious assault and Common assault, please see [Note 4.5.2](#).
6. 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 17](#).
7. Common assault includes the offences of Common assault and Common assault of an emergency worker.
8. Includes Breach of the peace and Threatening or abusive behaviour. Breach of the peace etc. also includes Offence of stalking, Offensive behaviour at football and Threatening communications (Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications Act 2012). However these are not relevant to firearm offences.

Table 12: Age of main accused, where known in offences involving the alleged use of a firearm, Scotland, 2003-04 to 2012-13

Age of Main Accused	Number & Percentage										
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	% change 11-12 to 12-13
15 or under	69	110	104	136	176	100	118	91	58	38	-34
16 to 20	136	120	112	208	217	128	128	94	90	59	-34
21 to 30	77	89	110	162	184	191	138	105	109	74	-32
31 to 40	63	69	70	117	79	83	53	71	70	37	-47
41 or over	41	40	60	103	78	75	72	77	53	33	-38
Total	386	428	456	726	734	577	509	438	380	241	-37

Table 13: Age of main accused, where known by main firearm recorded in offences involving the alleged use of a firearm, Scotland, 2012-13

Age of Main Accused	Main Firearm Recorded ¹							Total
	Shotgun	Rifle	Pistol/ Revolver	Air Weapon	Imitation	Unidentified	Other	
15 or under	-	-	-	20	10	-	8	38
16 to 20	1	2	7	27	10	-	12	59
21 to 30	3	4	11	29	9	5	13	74
31 to 40	2	1	7	14	2	3	8	37
41 or over	3	5	4	15	2	2	2	33
Total	9	12	29	105	33	10	43	241

Notes:

1. For further information on the main firearm recorded please see [Note 4.4.9](#).

Table 14: Offences in which a firearm was alleged to have been involved by police force area, Scotland, 2003-04 to 2012-13
Number & Percentage

Police Force Area	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	% change 11-12 to 12-13
Central	19	35	17	25	12	18	13	17	20	20	-
Dumfries & Galloway	22	25	27	27	29	26	20	21	12	21	75
Fife	12	11	10	39	30	40	44	36	19	31	63
Grampian	41	33	38	51	44	27	14	5	4	14	n/r
Lothian & Borders ¹	328	407	418	316	280	296	265	152	171	79	-54
Northern	-	2	11	16	42	34	22	8	15	4	-73
Strathclyde	452	531	474	691	581	444	407	359	253	163	-36
Tayside	83	92	73	95	125	84	56	49	41	33	-20
Scotland	957	1,136	1,068	1,260	1,143	969	841	647	535	365	-32

Notes:

1. As a result of a change in recording practices by Lothian and Borders Police, their data for 2012-13 are not directly comparable with previous years. For further information please see [Note 4.4.7](#).

Table 14a: Offences in which an identified firearm, other than an air weapon, was alleged to have been involved by police force area, Scotland, 2003-04 to 2012-13

Police Force Area	Number & Percentage										
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	% change 11-12 to 12-13
Central	6	7	2	9	2	5	4	4	16	13	-19
Dumfries & Galloway	8	4	17	5	9	15	7	8	8	9	n/r
Fife	-	1	4	5	6	12	7	21	15	8	-47
Grampian	22	15	14	5	12	8	5	-	1	4	n/r
Lothian & Borders ¹	32	75	107	109	128	124	119	75	92	48	-48
Northern	-	2	10	6	14	20	2	7	9	4	n/r
Strathclyde	67	88	139	196	194	189	166	199	120	70	-42
Tayside	21	40	36	67	97	53	36	29	24	12	-50
Scotland	156	232	329	402	462	426	346	343	285	168	-41

Notes:

1. As a result of a change in recording practices by Lothian and Borders Police, their data for 2012-13 are not directly comparable with previous years. For further information please see [Note 4.4.7](#).

Table 15: Offences in which a firearm was alleged to have been involved by police force area, Scotland, 2012-13

Type of Offence									Number
	Central	Dumfries & Galloway	Fife	Grampian	Lothian & Borders	Northern	Strathclyde	Tayside	Scotland
Homicide ¹	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Attempted murder	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Serious assault ²	-	-	-	-	2	-	4	-	6
Robbery	1	1	1	1	9	-	25	1	39
Vandalism	1	2	4	1	4	-	2	3	17
Reckless conduct with firearms	5	8	6	3	9	-	33	7	71
Firearms Act 1968 offences ³	1	-	4	2	9	-	16	-	32
Common assault ^{2,4}	1	3	12	1	11	-	33	10	71
Breach of the peace etc. ⁵	3	1	4	6	18	2	30	3	67
Other crimes and offences	8	6	-	-	16	2	18	9	59
Total	20	21	31	14	79	4	163	33	365

Notes:

1. Includes Murder and Culpable homicide (common law). It excludes Causing death by dangerous driving, Causing death by careless driving while under the influence of drink or drugs, Causing death by careless driving, Illegal driver involved in a fatal accident and Corporate homicide.
2. For the distinction between Serious assault and Common assault, please see [Note 4.5.2](#).
3. 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 17](#).
4. Common assault includes the offences of Common assault and Common assault of an emergency worker.
5. Includes Breach of the peace and Threatening or abusive behaviour. Breach of the peace etc. also includes Offence of stalking, Offensive behaviour at football and Threatening communications (Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications Act 2012). However these are not relevant to firearm offences.

Table 15a: Offences in which an identified firearm, other than an air weapon, was alleged to have been involved by police force area, Scotland, 2012-13

Type of Offence	Number								
	Central	Dumfries & Galloway	Fife	Grampian	Lothian & Borders	Northern	Strathclyde	Tayside	Scotland
Homicide ¹	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Attempted murder	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Serious assault ²	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	3
Robbery	1	1	1	1	9	-	20	-	33
Vandalism	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Reckless conduct with firearms	3	2	1	-	2	-	3	1	12
Firearms Act 1968 offences ³	1	-	2	1	6	-	11	-	21
Common assault ^{2,4}	1	2	2	-	9	-	11	5	30
Breach of the peace etc. ⁵	2	1	2	2	9	2	15	1	34
Other crimes and offences	5	3	-	-	11	2	8	4	33
Total	13	9	8	4	48	4	70	12	168

Notes:

1. Includes Murder and Culpable homicide (common law). It excludes Causing death by dangerous driving, Causing death by careless driving while under the influence of drink or drugs, Causing death by careless driving, Illegal driver involved in a fatal accident and Corporate homicide.
2. For the distinction between Serious assault and Common assault, please see [Note 4.5.2](#).
3. 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 17](#).
4. Common assault includes the offences of Common assault and Common assault of an emergency worker.
5. Includes Breach of the peace and Threatening or abusive behaviour. Breach of the peace etc. also includes Offence of stalking, Offensive behaviour at football and Threatening communications (Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications Act 2012). However these are not relevant to firearm offences.

Table 16: Offences in which a firearm was stolen by main firearm recorded (excluding air weapons), Scotland, 2003-04 to 2012-13

Main Firearm Recorded ¹	Number & Percentage										
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	% change 11-12 to 12-13
Shotgun	9	5	10	1	6	3	8	6	3	9	n/r
Rifle	1	1	-	1	9	2	-	1	2	6	n/r
Pistol/Revolver	3	1	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	2	-
Other Firearms	5	6	2	9	8	5	10	11	10	10	-
Total	18	13	12	11	25	10	18	20	15	27	80

Notes:

1. For further information on the main firearm recorded please see [Note 4.4.9](#).

Table 17: Miscellaneous firearm offences¹ by police force area, Scotland, 2003-04 to 2012-13

Police Force Area	Number & Percentage										
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	% change 11-12 to 12-13
Central	40	71	50	51	21	29	21	37	49	29	-41
Dumfries & Galloway	37	32	22	29	36	37	23	22	32	24	-25
Fife	19	36	26	56	33	38	26	36	44	26	-41
Grampian	66	80	88	72	58	46	62	80	47	39	-17
Lothian & Borders	59	102	136	160	142	132	84	58	58	67	16
Northern	62	69	73	95	50	59	51	84	66	47	-29
Strathclyde	321	481	461	444	478	402	345	295	297	223	-25
Tayside	60	76	60	40	45	31	53	37	27	29	7
Scotland	664	947	916	947	863	774	665	649	620	484	-22

Notes:

1. Offences mainly related to the possession, handling and distribution of weapons and ammunition. For further information please see [Note 4.1.2](#).

4. Notes on statistics used in this bulletin

4.1 Data Returns

- 4.1.1 The statistics presented in this bulletin are derived from data returns submitted by the eight legacy 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. A data return is submitted for each incident where a crime or offence has allegedly involved a firearm.
- 4.1.2 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 17](#)) which presents the totals for these offences based on [Recorded Crime](#) data returns.
- 4.1.3 It is possible that some of the inter-police force area variations shown in Tables [14](#), [14a](#), [15](#) and [15a](#) arise from differences in procedure or different police force interpretation.
- 4.1.4 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: **£700**.

Details of the calculation methodology are available on the Scottish Government Crime and Justice website at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/costcalculation>.

4.2 Legislation

- 4.2.1 Contraventions of Scottish criminal law are divided for statistical purposes into crimes and offences. "Crime" is generally used for the more serious criminal acts; the less serious termed "offences", although the term "offence" may also be used in relation to serious breaches of criminal law. The distinction is made only for working purposes and the "seriousness" of the offence is generally related to the maximum sentence that can be imposed.
- 4.2.2 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.

4.2.3 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.

4.2.4 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.

4.3 Crimes and offences cleared up

4.3.1 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.

4.3.2 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 be taken, as corroborative evidence is required. Thus, a case cannot be regarded as 'cleared up' on the basis of a confession alone.

4.4 Statistical issues

4.4.1 Data returns for incidents that occurred in previous years can occasionally be submitted by police forces with their returns for the current year. This will

result in revisions been made to figures previously published in this bulletin series.

- 4.4.2 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.
- 4.4.3 From 2005-06 onwards, the figures reported in this bulletin 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.
- 4.4.4 It was also agreed with all police forces 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.
- 4.4.5 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, 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 Common assault and Breach of the peace etc.
- 4.4.6 During the production of the tables contained in this bulletin, it was discovered that 34 offences that were recorded in 2005-06 had been coded incorrectly. The coding error has been corrected in the tables contained in this bulletin. As a result, there have been minor changes to the distribution of offences between the offences groups for the 2005-06 data. The changes are as follows: offences of Vandalism have increased by 33 offences, offences of Reckless conduct with firearms have increased by one offence and 'Other crimes and offences' have decreased by 34 offences.
- 4.4.7 Prior to 2012-13, Lothian and Borders Police included incidents within their recorded crime and offences involving a firearm data return which indicated a possible firearm had been used, for example; smashing window by firing air pellet or similar at glass. This was recognised as inaccurate recording and instruction was given to the effect that where there was no evidence to substantiate a firearm had been used i.e. crime witnessed, bullet found etc., the report would not be tagged with a firearms marker. This will account for

some of the decrease in the number of firearm offences recorded by Lothian and Borders Police in 2012-13 compared to previous years.

- 4.4.8 To calculate the figures shown in [Chart 2](#) and [Table 2](#), the total number of offences involving a firearm are calculated as a percentage of all crimes and offences recorded by the police. These figures are derived from the Scottish Government's '[Recorded Crime in Scotland](#)' statistical bulletin series. The figures are provided in [Table A](#).
- 4.4.9 The main firearm is that which inflicts the most serious injury or damage. In cases where no injury or damage is 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.
- 4.4.10 Details of the age and gender of the main victim ([Tables 10](#) and [10a](#)) 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.
- 4.4.11 Details of the age and gender of the main accused ([Tables 12](#) and [13](#)) 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.
- 4.4.12 The figures provided in [Table 16](#) 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.
- 4.4.13 There have been minor changes to the categories included in the tables in this bulletin compared to previous bulletins in this series. The changes were made to give a clearer presentation of the data due to the fact that 'other' categories were starting to dominate certain breakdowns. The changes are as follows:
- Within the offences categories, 'Other crimes and offences' has been separated into 'Breach of the peace etc.' and 'Other crimes and offences'.
 - Within the location categories, 'other locations' has been separated into 'shop' and 'other locations'.

Table A: Selected crimes and offences¹ recorded by the police, Scotland, 2003-04 to 2012-13

Type of Crime/Offence	Number									
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Homicide ²	107	142	95	121	118	99	79	93	93	65
Attempted murder	740	828	710	820	711	710	560	573	503	354
Serious assault ³	6,625	6,775	6,320	6,525	6,000	5,762	5,061	4,920	4,190	3,289
Robbery	4,161	3,736	3,553	3,578	3,064	2,963	2,496	2,557	2,244	1,832
Vandalism	95,663	119,855	120,340	121,676	109,855	100,880	85,576	74,420	67,984	53,699
Common assault ^{3,4}	57,355	73,711	72,281	78,167	73,523	74,130	72,212	70,786	69,253	60,955

Notes:

1. For further information on the selected crimes and offences recorded by the police included in this table, please see [Note 4.5.1](#).
2. Includes Murder and Culpable homicide (common law). It excludes Causing death by dangerous driving, Causing death by careless driving while under the influence of drink or drugs, Causing death by careless driving, Illegal driver involved in a fatal accident and Corporate homicide.
3. For the distinction between Serious assault and Common assault, please see [Note 4.5.2](#).
4. Common assault includes the offences of Common assault and Common assault of an emergency worker.

4.5 Classification

4.5.1 For the purposes of statistical reporting, the Scottish Government has a classification list containing about 475 crime and offence codes. These are grouped in this bulletin as follows:

Category	Notes
Homicide	Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Murder• Culpable homicide (common law)
Attempted murder	Attempted murder
Serious assault	Serious assault
Robbery	Robbery and assault with intent to rob
Vandalism	Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vandalism• Reckless Damage• Malicious mischief
Reckless conduct with firearms	Reckless conduct with firearms
Firearms Act 1968 offences	Firearm with intent to endanger life, commit crime or resist arrest
Common assault	Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Common assault• Common assault of an emergency worker
Breach of the peace etc.	Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Breach of the peace• Threatening or abusive behaviour
Other crimes and offences	Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Possession of an offensive weapon• Poaching and game laws• Deer offences• Cruelty to animals• Offences involving animals• Offences involving birds

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

“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
- Lacerations requiring sutures which may lead to impairment or disfigurement
- Any other injury which may lead to impairment or disfigurement.”

4.6 UK Statistics Authority

4.6.1 The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods; and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

The Assessment Report, which was published in June 2011, can be accessed via the following link:

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-119---statistics-on-homicide--domestic-abuse--firearm-offences-and-firearm-certificates-recorded-by-the-police-in-scotland.pdf>.

4.7 Other

4.7.1 Recorded offences involving the use of firearms statistics for England and Wales are published by the Office for National Statistics in the ‘Focus on: Violent Crime and Sexual Offences’ statistical bulletin series. Prior to the release of the 2011-12 data, the recorded offences involving the use of firearms statistics for England and Wales were published in the ‘Homicides,

Firearm Offences and Intimate Violence: Supplementary Volume 2 to Crime in England and Wales' statistical bulletin series.

The latest bulletin for England and Wales contained information for the financial year 2011-12 and was published on 7 February 2013. The bulletin can be found at: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/crime-stats/crime-statistics/focus-on-violent-crime/stb-focus-on--violent-crime-and-sexual-offences-2011-12.html>.

Recorded offences involving the use of firearms data for England and Wales for 2012-13 are scheduled for publication in early 2014.

- 4.7.2 Population data are derived from relevant mid-year population estimates prepared by the National Records of Scotland: <http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/theme/population/estimates/mid-year/index.html>.
- 4.7.3 Only a limited selection of tables are included in this bulletin. However, further analysis of recorded crimes and offences involving firearms statistics can be supplied upon request. This includes available information relating to a different time period than that covered in this bulletin. In certain cases, a fee may be charged for additional information. For details of what can be provided, please telephone Justice Analytical Services on 0131 244 2635 or e-mail JusticeAnalysts@scotland.gsi.gov.uk.
- 4.7.4 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.
- 4.7.5 The following symbols are used throughout the tables in this bulletin:
- = nil.
 - ~ = percentage less than 0.05%.
 - * = percentage less than 0.5%.
 - n/r = not reported (a percentage change figure is not reported if the denominator is less than ten as any resulting figure may be misleading).

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