



SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

Justice Department
Criminal Justice Division

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Statistics Release

28 November 2002

HOMICIDES IN SCOTLAND IN 2001 - STATISTICS PUBLISHED

Figures published today by the Scottish Executive reveal that Scottish police recorded 107 victims of homicide in 2001, 2 more than in 2000.

Summary information on homicides recorded in 2001, as known to the Scottish Executive on 10 November, 2002, is given below, (the full statistical bulletin **Homicide in Scotland** is published every two years and will next be published at end 2003).

Number of Cases and Victims of Homicide (Table 1)

In 2001, there were 104 cases currently recorded as homicide by the police, the same number as in 2000. These cases resulted in the death of 107 victims, 2 more than in 2000. The number of homicide victims per million population was 21 in both 2000 and 2001.

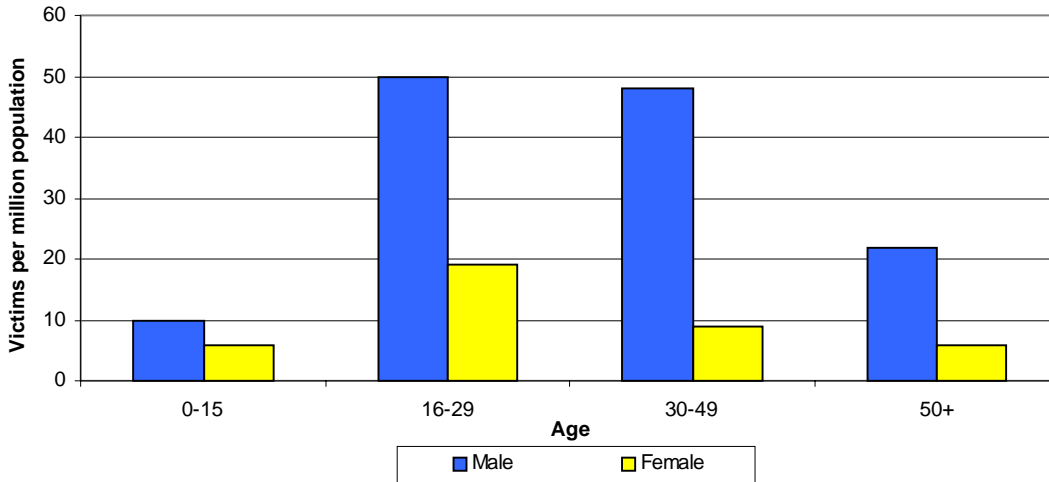
Homicide Cases by Police Force Area (Table 2)

The number of homicides in each police force area remained similar to the numbers recorded in 2000, with the exception of Grampian, where 7 homicides were recorded, compared to 12 in 2000.

Sex and Age of Victims (Table 3 and Chart 1)

There were 82 male victims of homicide in 2001, 77 per cent of the total. Male victims in the 16 to 29 and 30 to 39 age groups represented the highest rates of homicides per million population; 50 and 48 respectively.

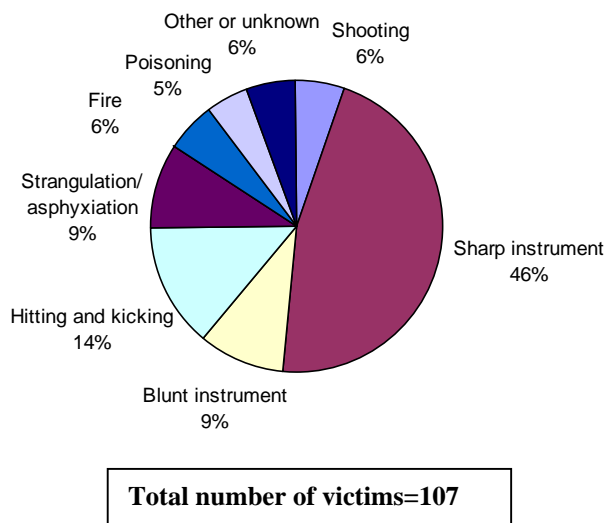
Chart 1: Homicide victims per million population, by age and sex, 2001



Method of Killing (Table 4 and Chart 2)

Homicide victims killed by the use of a sharp instrument increased slightly from 43 in 2000 to 49 in 2001. These victims represented around half (46 per cent) of all homicide victims in 2001, similar to the proportion in previous years.

Chart 2: Homicide victims, by method of killing, 2001



Relationship of Main Accused to the Victim (Table 5)

For all but 2 of the homicide victims in 2001, one or more accused persons have been identified. Of the 105 victims where an accused person(s) has been identified, the main accused was known to the victim in over three quarters of cases; 23 per cent of victims were presumed to have been killed by a relative and 56 per cent were presumed to have been killed by an acquaintance. Of the 24 victims in 2001 who were recorded as having been killed by a relative, over half (14) were killed by their partner. The proportion of victims who were killed by a stranger or where the relationship between the victim and accused was unknown, was 21 per cent, similar to the proportion reported in each of the previous 4 years.

Sex and age of accused (Table 6)

There was a total of 140 accused persons in the homicide cases recorded in 2001. As in previous years most (89 per cent) of these were male. Over half (51 per cent) of all accused were males aged 16 to 29.

Drink/drugs (Table 7 and Chart 3)

Fifty six per cent of persons accused in homicide cases in 2001 were reported to have been drunk or on drugs at the time (59 were drunk, 9 were on drugs and 11 were both drunk and on drugs). Only 13 persons were reported not to have been under the influence. The drink/drug status was not known for the remaining 48 accused.

Eleven victims (10 per cent of all homicide victims) were reported to have been killed in a drug related homicide, i.e. a homicide motivated by the need to obtain drugs (or money for drugs), homicide of a supplier or consumer of drugs in order to steal proceeds of drug trade or homicide as a consequence of rivalry within the trade/between users or dealers.

Previous convictions (Table 8 and Chart 4)

Of the 140 persons accused in homicide cases recorded in 2001, 43 (31 per cent) had no previous convictions, whilst 22 (16 per cent) had over 10 previous convictions. All 22 of the accused with over 10 previous convictions were male, the majority (19) killing with a sharp or blunt instrument or by hitting or kicking. Sixteen of those with over 10 previous convictions were also reported to have been drunk and/or on drugs at the time of the homicide, whilst for the remaining six their drink/drug level was not known. (See Annex note 5 for definition of previous convictions).

Chart 3: Drink/drug status of accused, 2001

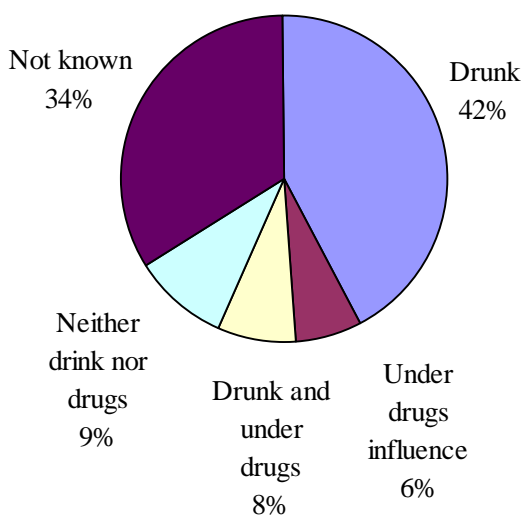
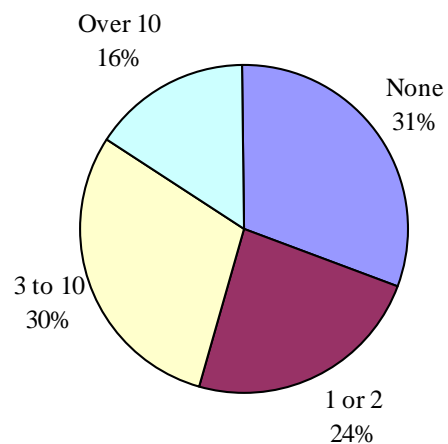


Chart 4: Previous convictions for persons convicted of homicide, 2001



Total number of accused = 140

Appeals (Table 9)

There were 215 appeals against conviction for culpable homicide and 101 against convictions for murder in the decade 1992 to 2001. Twenty eight per cent of appeals against culpable homicide convictions resulted in a reduced sentence, with a further 7 per cent resulting in the ordering of a retrial, the conviction being quashed or an another appeal sustained. For appeals against conviction for murder, the majority (89 per cent) were dismissed or abandoned. The remaining 11 per cent were successful in the conviction being quashed, the charge reduced to culpable homicide or a retrial ordered.

Cases and victims currently⁽¹⁾ recorded as homicide by the Police in Scotland, 1982-2001

Table 1

	1982-91 ⁽²⁾ Average	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996 ⁽³⁾	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Number of cases	85	131	114	108	132	115	90	95	118	104	104
Number of victims	89	136	116	111	133	134	90	97	119	105	107
Number of victims per million population	17	27	23	22	26	26	18	19	23	21	21
Number of accused	118	208	163	166	197	171	126	141	173	125	140

(1) At 7 November 2002.

(2) Excludes the case in 1988 of the Lockerbie disaster in which 270 victims were killed.

(3) Includes the 17 victims of the Dunblane tragedy.

Cases currently⁽¹⁾ recorded as homicide, by police force, 1997-2001

Table 2

Police Force (and council area)	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Scotland	90	95	118	104	104
Central	8	4	5	3	4
Dumfries & Galloway	1	2	3	6	6
Fife	3	4	1	3	2
Grampian	4	3	7	12	7
(Aberdeen City)	(2)	(2)	(7)	(3)	(4)
Lothian & Borders	11	13	16	10	11
(City of Edinburgh)	(8)	(8)	(9)	(4)	(6)
Northern	-	3	1	4	5
Strathclyde	59	61	81	60	64
(Glasgow City)	(27)	(31)	(34)	(34)	(32)
Tayside	4	5	4	6	5
(Dundee City)	(2)	(3)	(2)	(2)	(3)

(1) At 7 November 2002.

Victims currently⁽¹⁾ recorded as homicide, by sex and age

Table 3

	1997		1998		1999		2000		2001	
	Number	Rate per million population	Number	Rate per million population	Number	Rate per million population	Number	Rate per million population	Number	Rate per million population
All persons	90	18	97	19	119	23	105	21	107	21
Under 16	6	6	7	7	3	3	10	10	8	8
16-29	29	30	36	38	41	44	29	32	34	37
30-49	38	25	39	26	55	36	46	30	43	28
over 49	17	10	15	9	20	12	20	12	21	13
All males	72	29	75	30	98	39	74	30	82	33
Under 16	5	10	5	10	3	6	6	12	5	10
16-29	22	44	28	58	36	75	27	58	25	53
30-49	32	43	32	43	42	56	28	37	36	47
over 49	13	18	10	14	17	23	13	17	16	21
All females	18	7	22	8	21	8	31	12	24	9
Under 16	1	2	2	4	-	-	4	8	3	6
16-29	7	15	8	17	5	11	2	4	9	20
30-49	6	8	7	9	13	17	18	23	7	9
over 49	4	4	5	5	3	3	7	8	5	5

(1) At 7 November 2002.

Victims currently⁽¹⁾ recorded as homicide victims, by main method of killing, 1997-2001

Table 4

Main method of killing	1997		1998		1999		2000		2001	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
All victims	90	100	97	100	119	100	105	100	107	100
Shooting	6	7	9	9	5	4	2	2	6	6
Sharp instrument	35	39	42	43	66	55	43	41	49	46
Blunt instrument	10	11	11	11	12	10	10	10	10	9
Hitting and kicking	16	18	14	14	16	13	17	16	15	14
Strangulation/asphyxiation	8	9	6	6	10	8	12	11	10	9
Drowning							3	3	-	-
Fire	4	4	6	6	-	-	-	-	6	6
Poisoning	11	12	9	9	10	8	2	2	5	5
Other or unknown							16	15	6	6

(1) At 7 November 2002.

Victims currently⁽¹⁾ recorded as homicide victims, by relationship of main accused to victim, 1997-2001

Table 5

Sex of victim and relationship of main accused to victim	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
All victims	90	97	119	105	107
Victims - solved cases	88	96	117	104	105
Son,daughter	4	2	4	2	1
Parent	4	5	4	8	5
Partner	9	15	17	22	14
Other relative	3	4	4	4	4
Acquaintance:					
Friend/social acquaintance	46	47	61	36	36
Business/criminal associate				3	5
Rival gang member				3	1
Other known person				10	17
Stranger	22	23	25	11	16
Unknown	-	-	2	5	6
Victims - unsolved cases	2	1	2	1	2

(1) At 7 November 2002.

Persons accused in homicide cases⁽¹⁾ by sex and age, 1997-2001

Table 6

	1997		1998		1999		2000		2001	
	Number	Rate per million population	Number	Rate per million population	Number	Rate per million population	Number	Rate per million population	Number	Rate per million population
All persons	126	25	141	28	173	34	125	24	140	27
Under 16	3	3	8	8	6	6	4	4	4	4
16-29	70	72	93	97	89	95	61	66	78	85
30-49	47	31	37	25	69	45	51	33	49	32
over 49	6	4	3	2	9	5	9	5	9	5
All males	117	47	120	48	156	63	108	43	124	50
Under 16	3	6	7	13	5	10	4	8	2	4
16-29	67	135	85	175	81	170	55	117	71	151
30-49	41	55	26	35	62	82	42	55	42	55
over 49	6	8	2	3	8	11	7	9	9	12
All females	9	3	21	8	17	6	17	6	16	6
Under 16	-	-	1	2	1	2	-	-	2	4
16-29	3	6	8	17	8	17	6	13	7	15
30-49	6	8	11	15	7	9	9	12	7	9
over 49	-	-	1	1	1	1	2	2	-	-

(1) At 7 November 2002.

Persons accused in homicide cases⁽¹⁾, by whether drunk and/or under influence of drugs, by sex, 2000-2001

Table 7

	2000		2001	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
All accused	125	100	140	100
Drunk	46	37	59	42
Under drugs influence	9	7	9	6
Drunk and under drugs	8	6	11	8
Neither drink nor drugs	23	18	13	9
Not known	39	31	48	34

(1) At 7 November 2002.

Persons accused in cases currently⁽¹⁾ recorded as homicide, by number of previous convictions (within scope of Scottish Offenders Index⁽³⁾)

Table 8

	Total number ⁽²⁾	Number of previous convictions			
		None	1 or 2	3 to 10	Over 10
All	140	43	33	42	22
Male	124	34	30	38	22
Female	16	9	3	4	-

(1) At 7 November 2002.

(2) Total include two accused for which the number of previous convictions is unknown.

(3) See Annex note 5.

Appeals against convictions for murder⁽¹⁾ and culpable homicide, by outcome, 1992-2001

Table 9

	Crime of which convicted before appeal	
	Murder	Culpable homicide
Total number (=100%)	215	101
Percentage:		
Conviction quashed	4	1
Charge reduced	4	-
Sentence reduced	-	28
Retrial ordered	3	4
Other appeal sustained	-	2
Dismissed	39	39
Abandoned ⁽²⁾	50	27

1. Excludes appeals by persons convicted of murder appealing against the effective start date of their sentence.

2. Includes, from September 1995 onwards, appeals refused at sift stage.

NOTES

1. This Statistics Release (and the biennial bulletins) gives details on cases of homicide - that is murder and common law culpable homicide. Causing death by dangerous driving and causing death by careless driving while under the influence of drink or drugs are excluded. In 2001, there were 34 such crimes recorded by the police (including 2 of death by careless driving while under the influence of drugs or alcohol).
2. A single case of homicide is counted for each act of murder or culpable homicide irrespective of the number of perpetrators or victims.
3. A homicide case is included against the year in which it is recorded by the police. This is not necessarily the year in which the offence took place, the year in which the accused is brought to trial for the crime, or the year in which the case is finally disposed of by the courts.
4. The figures given in this Statistics Release are as known to The Scottish Executive on 7 November 2002. The initial classification of a case as homicide is made by the police; this will generally be murder. This classification may be altered as a result of decisions taken in the course of criminal proceedings. Some cases initially classified as homicide will, on the basis of criminal proceedings, no longer be classified as such at a later date. This happens in cases where it is found that a homicide had not in fact taken place at all, for example where the main accused person is found guilty of a lesser offence, such as serious assault; or where the decision has been made not to proceed with the case, for example if it is concluded that the victim committed suicide. For this reason the figures for 2001 and previous years which will appear in the next bulletin may differ slightly from those given here.
5. Counts of previous convictions are based on the Scottish Offenders Index (SOI) which covers virtually all convictions between 1989 and 2001 for the most serious crimes and offences. Some types of convictions are not covered by the SOI however, including:
 - convictions for motor vehicle and most minor statutory and common law offences
 - convictions in courts outwith Scotland
 - convictions prior to 1989.
6. This Statistics Release may be viewed on the Scottish Executive Internet Web Site:
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/stats/bulletins/00205-00.asp>
7. Copies of the December 2001 statistical bulletin on homicide are available at a cost of £2.00 from Scottish Executive Publication Sales, The Stationary Office Bookshop, 71 Lothian Road, Edinburgh, EH3 9AZ.

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