



# Domestic, Sexual & Gender-Based Violence Press Briefing - 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2022

**Garda Síochána Analysis Service**



# Overview

- Background to the Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence Report.
- Data Quality and Recording Improvements.
- Outline of Key Findings.





# Background

- Thematic, proactive publication to provide an evidence base, inform operational policing and support policy making.
- Covering all Homicide Offences, Sexual Offences and Attempts/ Threats to Murder, Assaults, Harassments and Related Offences.
- Long term view of trends: 2013 to 2021. Focus on more recent incidents reported between 2019 and 2021.
- Examines gender and age profiles of injured parties, Domestic Abuse motivated incidents and Victim Offender Relationships (where available).
- Also looks at residential and non-residential locations and suspected offenders (where available) gender and age.





# Data Quality and Recording Improvements

- Report will be the first time AGS has published Homicide figures in a number of years.
- Significant additional validation work undertaken on all Murder incidents.
- Retrospective recording of the Victim Offender Relationship on all Murder incidents.
- Incidents since 2019 (not covered by HIRT) given additional scrutiny.
- Using the Victim Offender Relationship field to activate additional data quality checks for the Domestic Abuse motive.





# Some Key Findings

- Domestic Abuse primarily affects females and is the key driver of (female) gender based violence. Incidents with the DA motive have increased over time – may be reflective of increased reporting and improved recording practices, not necessarily (or only) as a result of increasing rates.
- Homicide Offences – the number of incidents has declined in recent years but the proportion of murders relating to Domestic Abuse has increased. The majority of victims of all homicides are males.





# Some Key Findings

- Sexual Offences – the number of incidents has increased over time, females are the majority of victims. For males and females, most are victims when they were aged under 18 years old. There is a greater proportion of adult female victims. High proportions of sexual offences occur in residential locations for both males and female injured parties.
- Attempts/Threats to Murder, Assaults, Harassments and Related Offences – the number of incidents has increased over time. Victims are more likely to be older adults for both females and males. When males are the injured party the incident is more likely to have occurred in a non-residential location; incidents with female injured parties are more likely to have occurred in a residential location.





# Some Key Findings

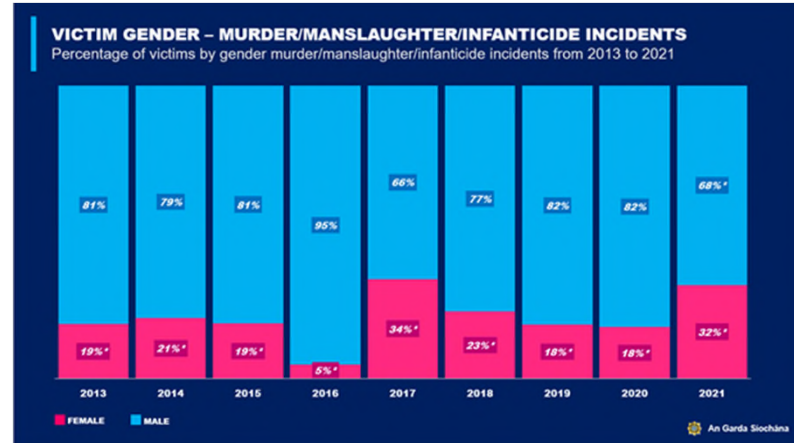
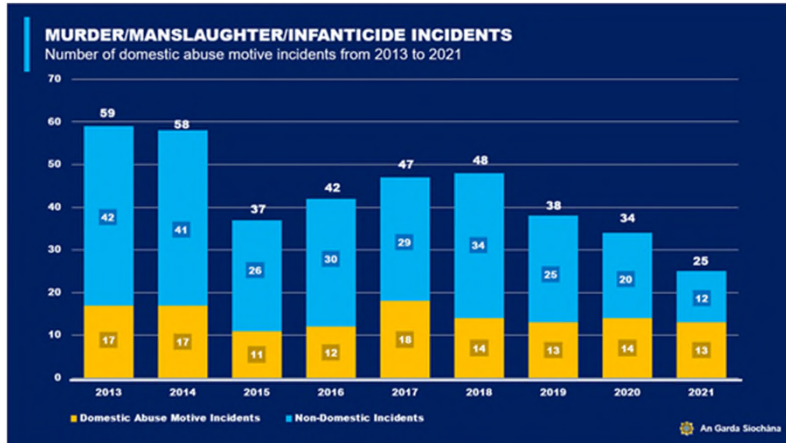
- Considering all incidents within the three crime groups - Homicide Offences, Sexual Offences and Attempts/Threats to Murder, Assaults, Harassments and Related Offences:
  - Based on the sub-set of incidents with at least one suspected offender, the offender is male in the majority of incidents with a female victim. When the victim is male, the offender is also male for the majority.
  - For the sub-set of incidents where the Victim Offender Relationship is available, female victims are more likely than males to know the offender (84% of female victims compared to 61% of male victims).





# Murder/Manslaughter/Infanticide

- Murder/Manslaughter/Infanticide incident trends have varied over the years since 2013 and have been reducing since 2018.
- Last year, 2021, was the first year since 2013 in which there were more murders with a domestic abuse motive than any other motive.
- Between 2019 and 2021, 78% of murder victims were males.







# Homicide Offences

- Overall Homicide Offences group includes dangerous driving causing death.
- Males are the victim in the majority (71%) of Homicide Offences.
- Whilst based on low underling figures, notable proportions of males and females are children (aged under 18 years) at the time they were the victim in a homicide incident.

INCIDENT GROUP/SUB-GROUP/TYPE	% MALE VICTIMS	% FEMALE VICTIMS
<b>01 - HOMICIDE OFFENCES</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>29%</b>
011 - Murder/Manslaughter/Infanticide	78%	22%
0111 - Murder	77%	23%
012 - Dangerous Driving Leading to Death	63%	37%

INCIDENT GROUP/SUB-GROUP	% MALE VICTIMS	% FEMALE VICTIMS
<b>01 - HOMICIDE OFFENCES</b>		
Under 18 years old	8% *	17% *
18-34 years old	29%	23% *
35-54 years old	37%	29% *
55+ years old	27%	31% *

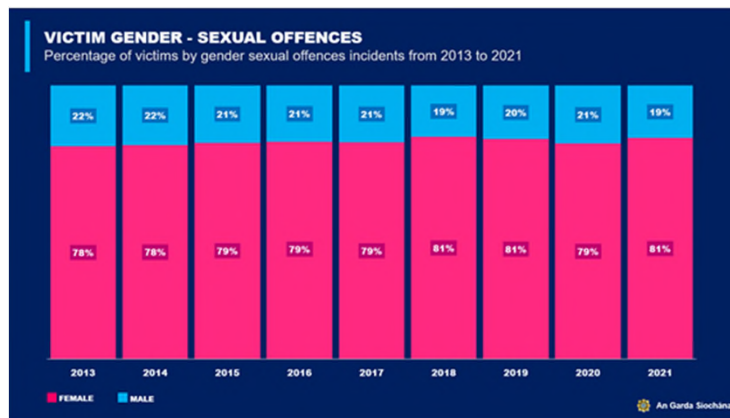
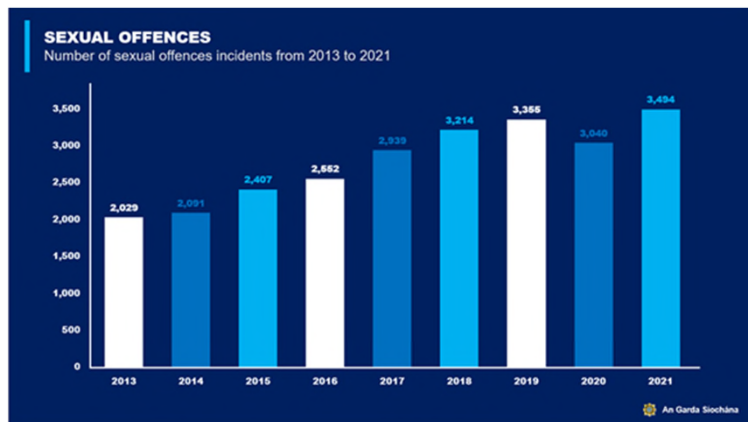
*\*Percentage based on underlying incident count of less than 20 incidents.*





# Sexual Offences

- Sexual Offences have generally been trending upwards.
- The majority of victims are females, 80% between 2019 and 2021. Most are aged 34 years and younger (69%).





# Sexual Offences

- Females are the victim in the majority (80%) of Sexual Offences. This group includes sexual assaults and child pornography offences.
- The majority of reported sexual offences are against children (60%). 81% of all male sexual offence victims and 55% of all female sexual offence victims were aged under 18 at the time of the incident (all reported 2019-2021).
- Some offences are reported many years after they occurred, that is, adults reporting experience of child sexual abuse.

INCIDENT GROUP/SUB-GROUP	% MALE VICTIMS	% FEMALE VICTIMS
<b>02 - SEXUAL OFFENCES</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>80%</b>
021 - Rape and Sexual Assault	20%	80%
0211 - Rape of a male or female	10%	90%
0212 - Defilement of a boy or girl less than 17 years old	19%	81%
0213 - Sexual offence involving mentally impaired person	40%*	60%
0214 - Aggravated sexual assault	15%*	85%*
0215 - Sexual assault (not aggravated)	25%	75%
022 - Other Sexual Offences	22%	78%

\*Percentage based on underlying incident count of less than 20 incidents.

INCIDENT GROUP/SUB-GROUP	% MALE VICTIMS	% FEMALE VICTIMS
<b>02 - SEXUAL OFFENCES</b>		
Under 18 years old	81%	55%
18-34 years old	13%	31%
35-54 years old	4%	11%
55+ years old	2%	2%

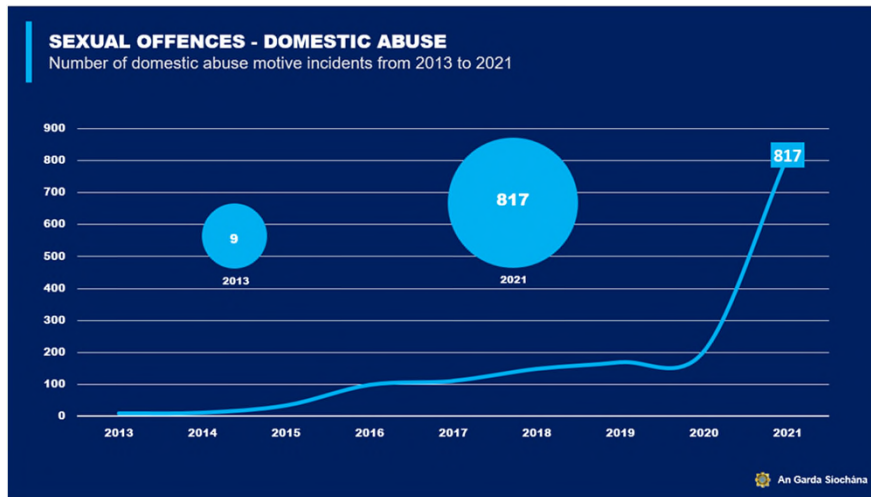
02 - SEXUAL OFFENCES	AVERAGE TIME TO REPORT (YEARS)	MEDIAN TIME TO REPORT (YEARS)
All Incidents	8	0
Female Victim	6	0
Male Victim	19	13





# Sexual Offences with a Domestic Abuse Motive

- Sexual offences with a domestic abuse motive have increased since 2013 and rose substantially between 2020 and 2021 (from 205 to 817 or +399%).
- 26% of sexual offences in 2021 had a domestic abuse motive.
- Victim Offender Relationship field has supported the identification of additional incidents.
- More than half (53%) of the sexual offences from 2021 had a relationship type which activates additional validation checks for the DA motive resulting in improved recording practices.



## INCIDENT GROUP –

### DOMESTIC ABUSE MOTIVE INCIDENTS - 2021 ONLY

## INCIDENTS

## INCIDENTS WITH RELEVANT RELATIONSHIP

01 - Homicide Offences

13

13

02 - Sexual Offences

817

429

03 - Attempts / Threats to Murder, Assaults, Harassments and Rel. Off.

5,433

2,874

**GRAND TOTAL**

**6,263**

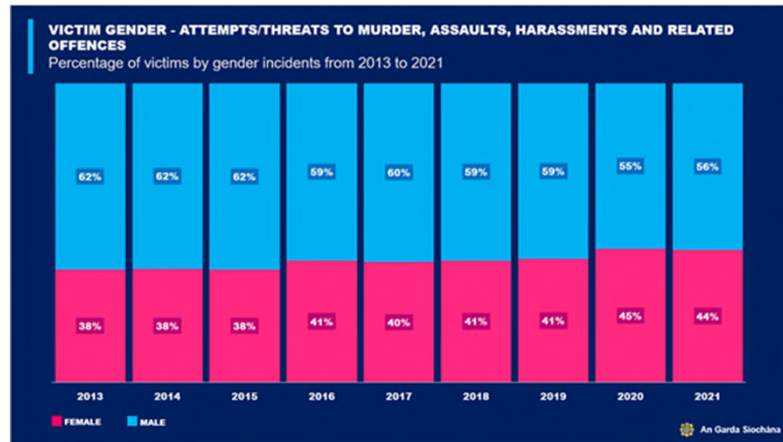
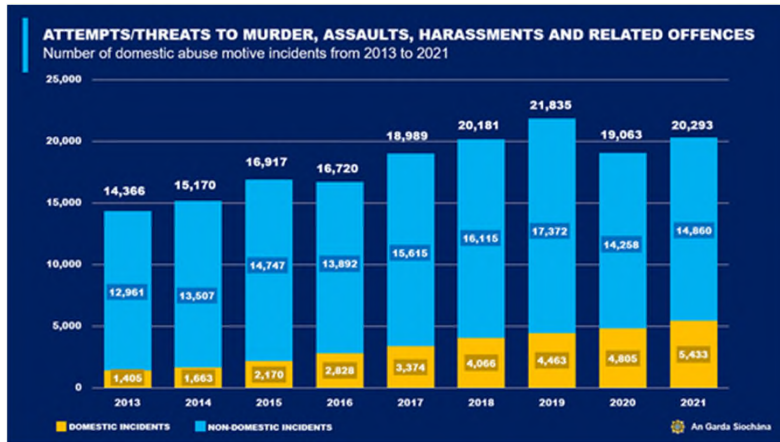
**3,316**





# Attempts/Threats To Murder, Assaults, Harassments

- Incidents have generally been trending upwards since 2013, decrease in 2020 and to a lesser extent in 2021, was largely associated with Covid related restrictions.
- The number and proportion of incidents with the domestic abuse motive has also increased each year. This remained the case in 2020 and 2021 during and the Covid related restrictions.
- Whilst the majority of victims are males, the proportion of female victims has been trending upwards, from 38% in 2013 to 44% in 2021.





# Attempts/Threats To Murder, Assaults, Harassments

- Within the Attempts/Threats to Murder, Assaults, Harassment and Related Offences group, males are the victim in the majority (59%) of Assault incidents, while females are the majority (67%) in Harassment and Related Offences.
- 78% of female victims and 72% of males victims are aged between 18 and 54 years at the time of an Attempt/Threat/Assault etc. incident.

INCIDENT GROUP/SUB-GROUP	% MALE VICTIMS	% FEMALE VICTIMS
<b>03 – ATTEMPTS/THREATS TO MURDER, ASSAULTS, HARASSMENTS AND RELATED OFFENCES</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>43%</b>
031 - Attempts/Threats to Murder	55%	45%
0311 - Murder-attempt	80%	20%*
0312 - Murder-threat	55%	45%
032 - Assaults	59%	41%
0321 - Assault causing harm	66%	34%
0324 - Minor assault	56%	44%
033 - Harassment and Related Offences	33%	67%
0331 - Harassment, stalking, threats	29%	71%
0332 - Coercion	10%	90%
0333 - Menacing phonecalls	37%	63%

INCIDENT GROUP/SUB-GROUP	% MALE VICTIMS	% FEMALE VICTIMS
<b>03 - ATTEMPTS / THREATS TO MURDER, ASSAULTS, HARASSMENTS AND RELATED OFFENCES</b>		
Under 18 years old	16%	12%
18-34 years old	38%	45%
35-54 years old	34%	35%
55+ years old	11%	7%

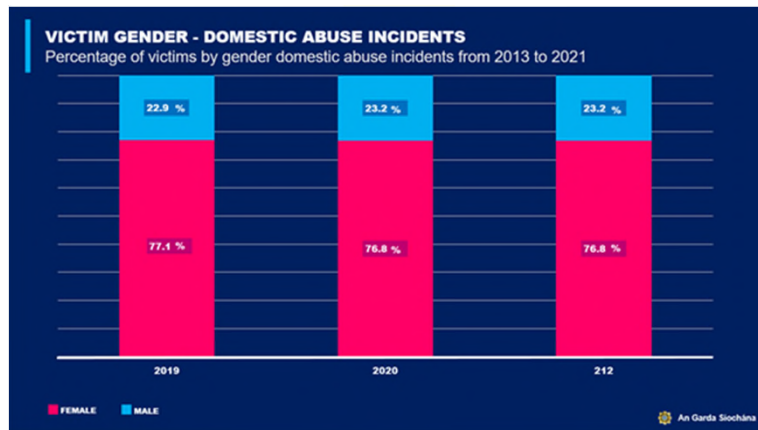
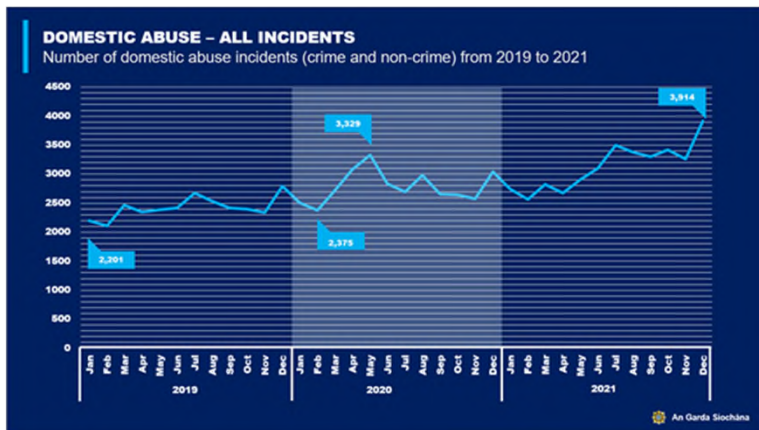
\*Percentage based on underlying incident count of less than 20 incidents.





# All Domestic Abuse Incidents

- Covers all crime incidents with a domestic abuse motive recorded and the non-crime type of Domestic Dispute – No Offence Disclosed
- Obvious peak during the early Covid related restrictions and have continued at higher level since.
- Gender breakdown is stable with 77% of victims being female and 23% male over the last three years.

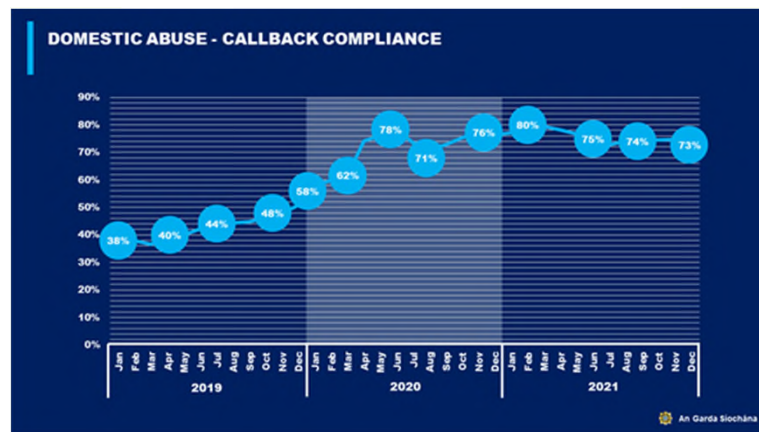
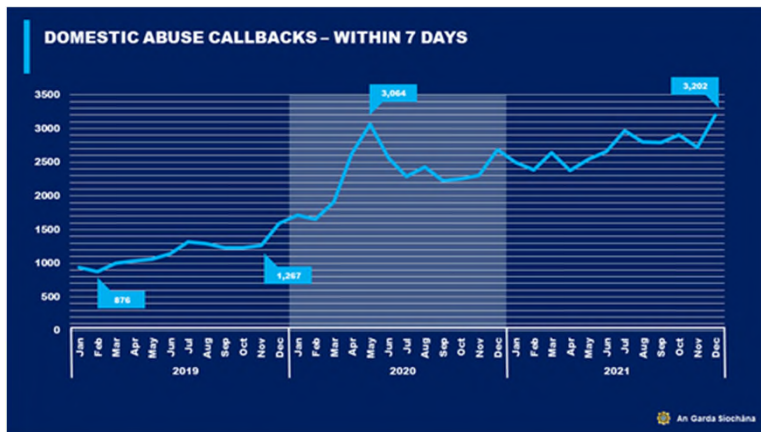






# Response to Domestic Abuse

- The number of callbacks (at any time) being made to victims of domestic abuse went from just under 3,000 in January 2020 to over 4,000 in May 2020.
- Similarly, the proportion of callbacks made to victims within 7 days increased from 38% at the beginning of 2019 to over 70% in April 2020 and remained at that level or higher throughout 2020 and 2021.







# Victim Offender Relationships (from July 2021 only)

- Across all three crime groups, males are more likely to be subjected to violent and threatening behaviour by someone unknown to them than females (39% vs 16%).
- The highest proportion of females victims (33%) across the three crime groups were a current or former partner or spouse of the offender.

VICTIM OFFENDER RELATIONSHIPS	% FEMALE VICTIMS	% MALE VICTIMS
<b>Unknown</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>39%</b>
Offender unknown to victim/Relationship not known	16%	39%
<b>Known</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>61%</b>
Acquaintance/Friend	14%	15%
Authority/care relationship (doctor, nurse, police, etc.)	3%	4%
Colleague/work relationship	2%	2%
Current/Former intimate partner/spouse	33%	5%
Inter-familial	14%	11%
Other household member	3%	2%
Other offender known to victim	16%	22%





# Closing Comments

- Males and females experience violent and threatening crimes differently.
  - For female victims, there is a close link between domestic abuse and sexual/other types of violence.
  - Male victims, whilst also experiencing domestic abuse, are more likely to be subject to violence by offenders unknown to them and/or in incidents not relating to domestic abuse.
- Whether a crime is more likely to occur in a residential or non-residential location varies for different incident groups.
  - Generally, females are victims of higher proportions of incidents in residential locations than males.
- The introduction of the Victim Offender Relationship field on PULSE in July 2021 provides rich analytical insight. The VOR activates further data validation processes which has supported the identification of additional incidents where there was a domestic abuse element.



# Thank You

