

7. CRIME RELATED TO ALCOHOL USE

Data for crime in Moray has been provided by 2 sources: ScotPHO and Police Scotland. ScotPHO collect data for various crimes, such as attempted murder, breach of the peace and common assault, for example. Data are not available for Moray, so data for Moray ADP has been used again in the following charts. This data is compared with data received from Police Scotland on incidents recorded in the Moray Licensing Board area in the next section to identify any common themes, or areas of disagreement.

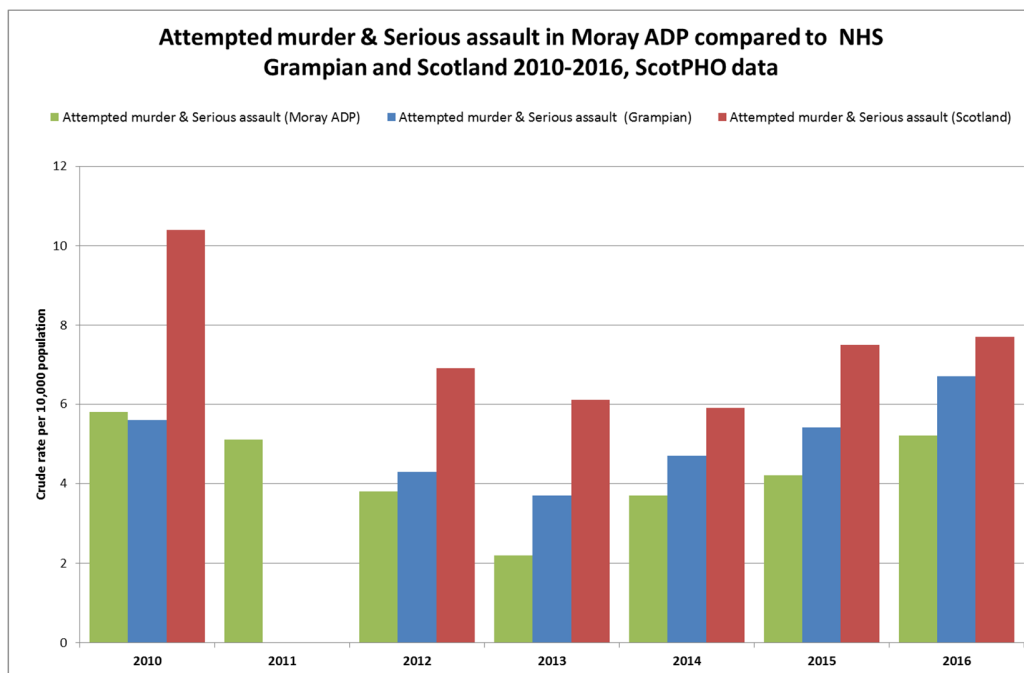


Figure 61: Attempted murder & Serious assault in Moray ADP compared to NHS Grampian and Scotland 2010-2016, ScotPHO data

Moray ADP has a low rate of attempted murder and serious assault compared to NHS Grampian and Scotland. In 2015 the rate of 5.2 incidents per 10,000 population was two-thirds of the rate for Scotland. Note, however, that there has been a gradual increase in the rates of these types of incidents in the Moray ADP area since 2012, when the rate was 2.2 per 10,000 population, less than half the 2016 rate (Figure 61).

The rate for common assaults has remained reasonably constant from 2013 onwards with Scotland, NHS Grampian and Moray ADP recording between 99.2 and 113.3 incidents per 10,000 population (Figure 62). Vandalism rates have remained at similar levels from 2011 onwards with Moray ADP generally recording lower rates than both NHS Grampian and Scotland. In 2016 Moray ADP's vandalism rates were 72% of the national rate (Figure 63).

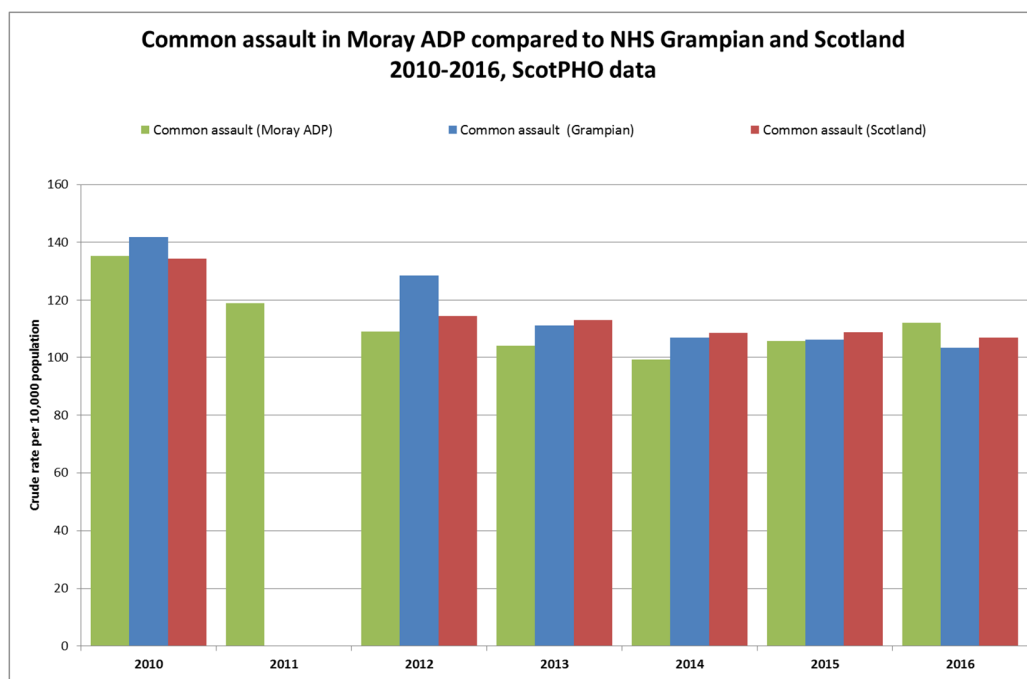


Figure 62: Common assault in Moray ADP compared to NHS Grampian and Scotland 2010-2016, ScotPHO data

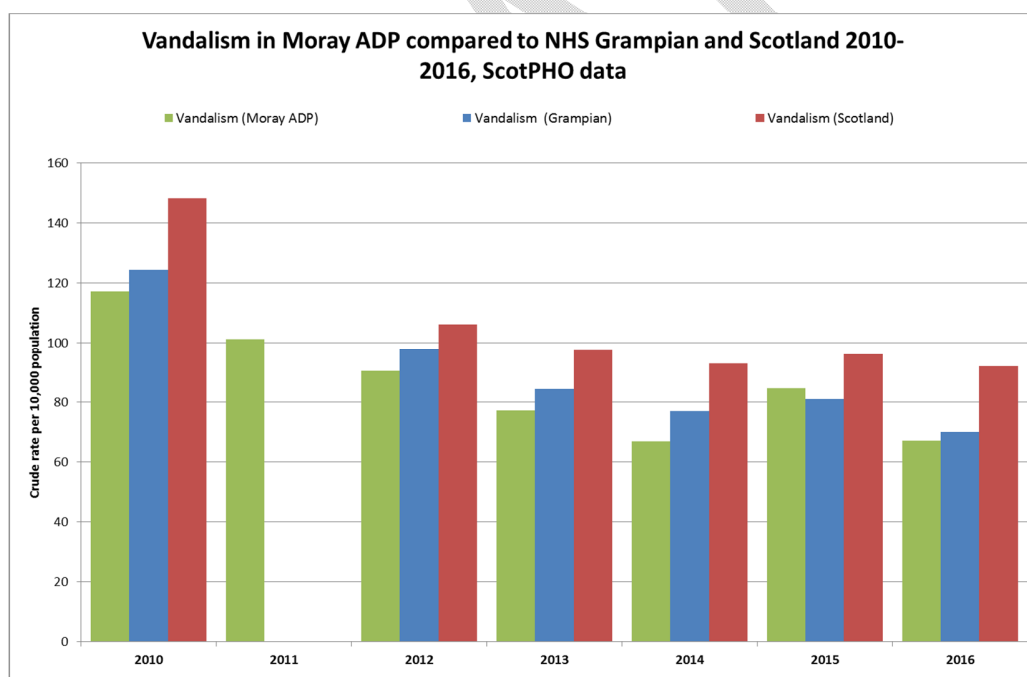


Figure 63: Vandalism in Moray ADP compared to NHS Grampian and Scotland 2010-2016, ScotPHO data

Breach of Peace rates in Scotland have gradually declined over time, while rates for such incidents have risen in Moray ADP in recent years. However, the Moray ADP rates are still lower than Scotland (Figure 64).

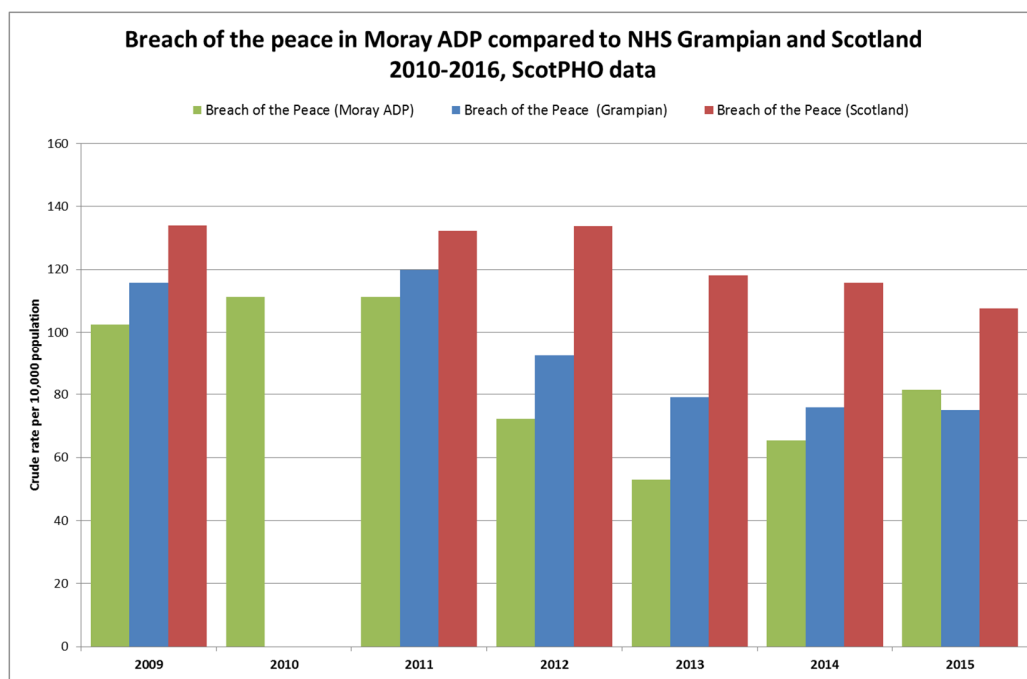


Figure 64: Breach of the peace in Moray ADP compared to NHS Grampian and Scotland 2010-2016, ScotPHO data

The rate of child protection case conferences where parental alcohol abuse has been identified for children on the register per 10,000 population aged under 18 years is very low in the Moray ADP area but is consistently higher than NHS Grampian. In 2016 the Moray ADP rate was almost double the national rate (10.1 compared to 5.2 per 10,000 population aged under 18). It is possible that for this measure small numbers will lead to larger fluctuations in the rate per 10,000 population (Figure 65).

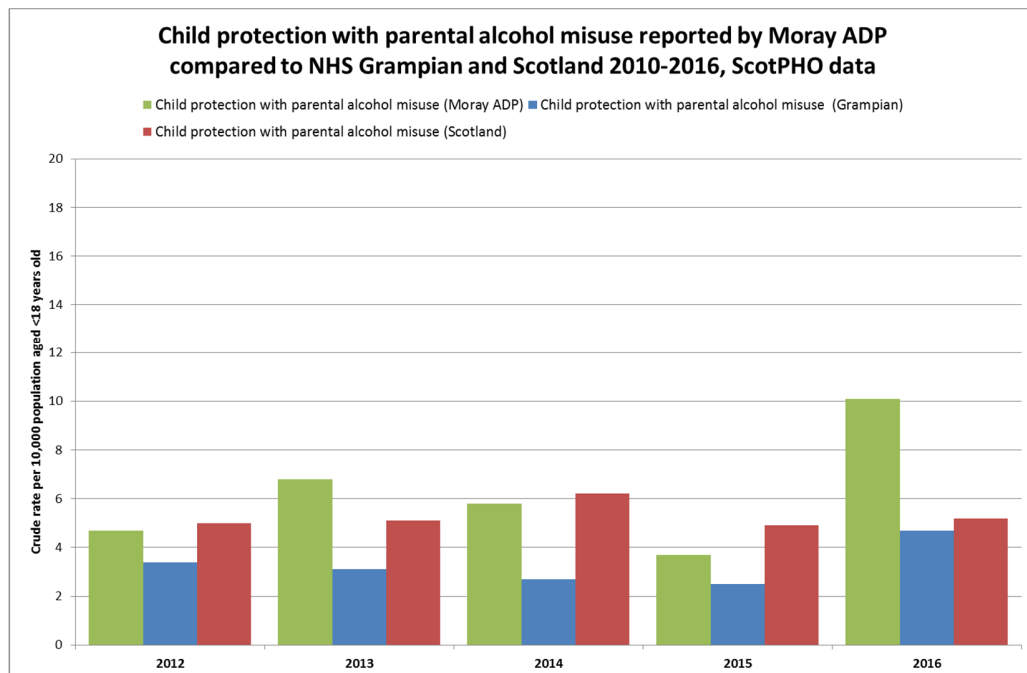


Figure 65: Child protection with parental alcohol misuse reported by Moray ADP compared to NHS Grampian and Scotland 2010-2016, ScotPHO data

Police Scotland Data

Police Scotland have provided data for acts of violence in Moray, namely: common assault, serious assault, breach of the peace and threatening and abusive behaviour for the financial years 2014/15 through to the end of February 2017/18. The data has been charted to identify trends, and control charts have been plotted to determine if the range of incidents are statistically consistent, and therefore in control, or unpredictable, and out of control. In addition, the data have been analysed to identify where and at what time of day, and which day of the week incidents are likely to occur.

The charts for “Common Assaults” and “Breach of the Peace” suggest a reducing trend in recent quarters, while “Serious Assaults” were marginally higher in 2017/18 compared to the 4-year average. “Common Assaults” account for by far the highest number of incidents with an average over the past 4 years of just under 62 incidents per month (75 charges per month). The second highest class of incident is “Threatening and Abusive Behaviour”, with an average over the same period of 45 incidents per month. In comparison, there have been an average of 3.4 serious assaults per month and 5.3 breaches of the peace since 2014/15.

The overall number of recorded incidents rose during 2015/16 and 2016/17, but numbers in recent months suggests a return to previous levels recorded in 2014/15 (Figure 66). The ScotPHO data for the Moray Alcohol and Drug Partnership (MADP) in the previous section gives a slightly different picture. Common assault rates have been reasonably constant at around 100 to 110 per 10,000 population each year from 2012 to 2016, but breach of the peace, although down from the rates in 2010 - 2012, has shown an increase from 50 per 10,000 population in 2014 to 80 per 10,000 population in 2016. Similarly,

the rate for attempted murder and serious assault also rose between 2013 and 2016. Note, though that for all these type of incidents the MADP area is below the national levels, except common assault where it is marginally higher than the national rate. When the ScotPHO statistics for MADP are available for 2017 it will be interesting to revisit them and see how they compare to the Police Scotland data for Moray.

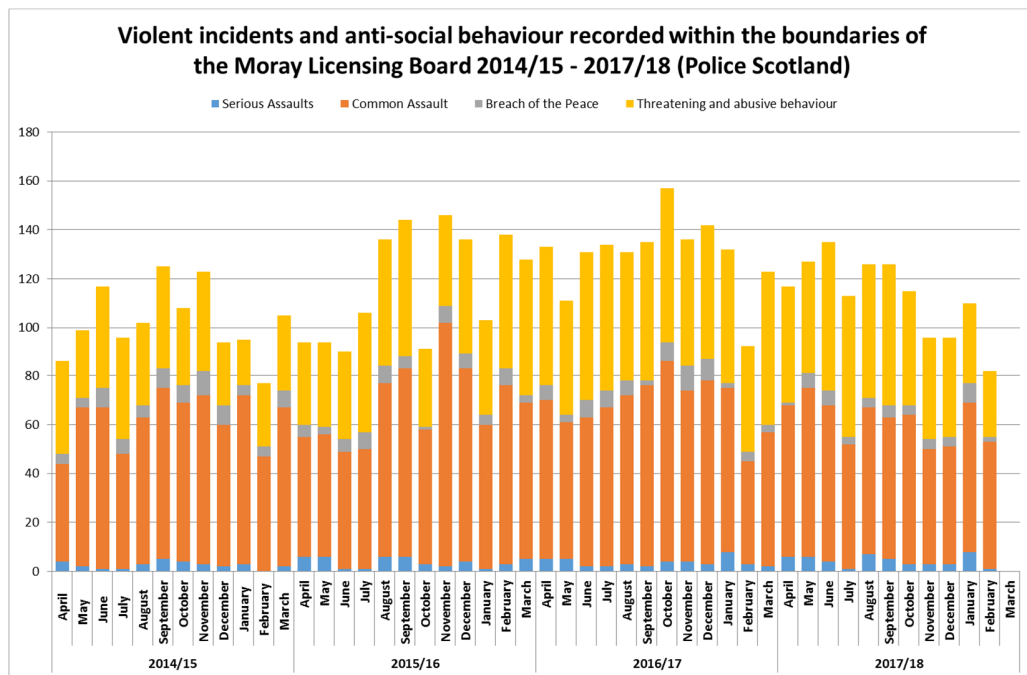


Figure 66: Violent incidents and anti-social behaviour recorded within the boundaries of the Moray Licensing Board 2014/15 - 2017/18 (Police Scotland)

Serious assaults remain a relatively infrequent occurrence in Moray with an average of 4.3 recorded each month during 2017/18. However, the monthly average has risen from 2.5 in 2014/15, and is higher than the average of 3.7 per month in 2015/16 (Figure 67). The 2017/18 figures are dominated by figures of 8 in January 2018, 7 in August 2017 and 6 each in April and May 2017.

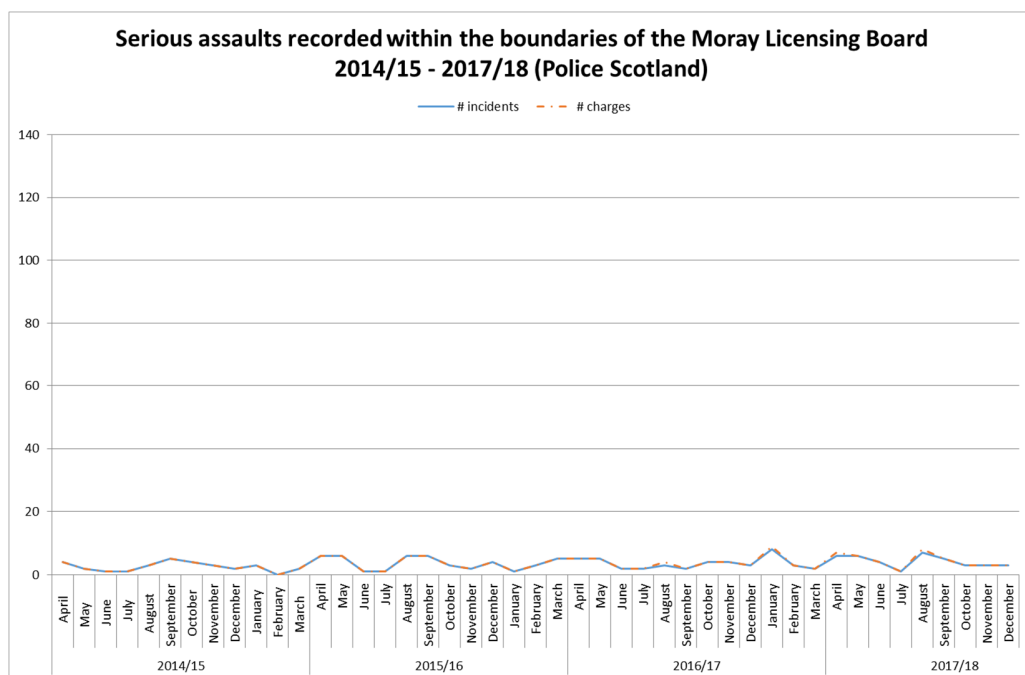


Figure 67: Serious assaults recorded within the boundaries of Moray Licensing Board 2104/15 - 2017/18 (Police Scotland)

Figure 68 indicates that since the peak of 100 common assaults in November 2015 the monthly rate has been gradually reducing, and since January 2017 has consistently been below 70 incidents per month, averaging approximately 58 per month during 2017/18. The control chart (Figure 69) suggests that in recent years only the November 2015 figure has been a special case, and the figures for the last 8 months are below the average for the past 4 years.

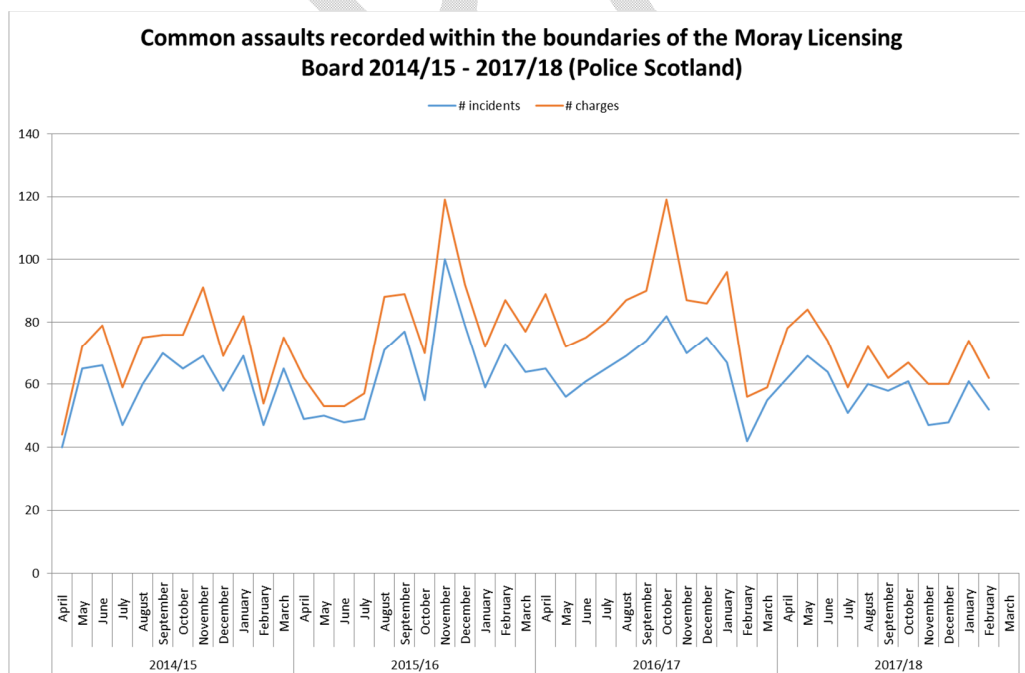


Figure 68: Common assaults recorded within the boundaries of Moray Licensing Board 2104/15 - 2017/18 (Police Scotland)

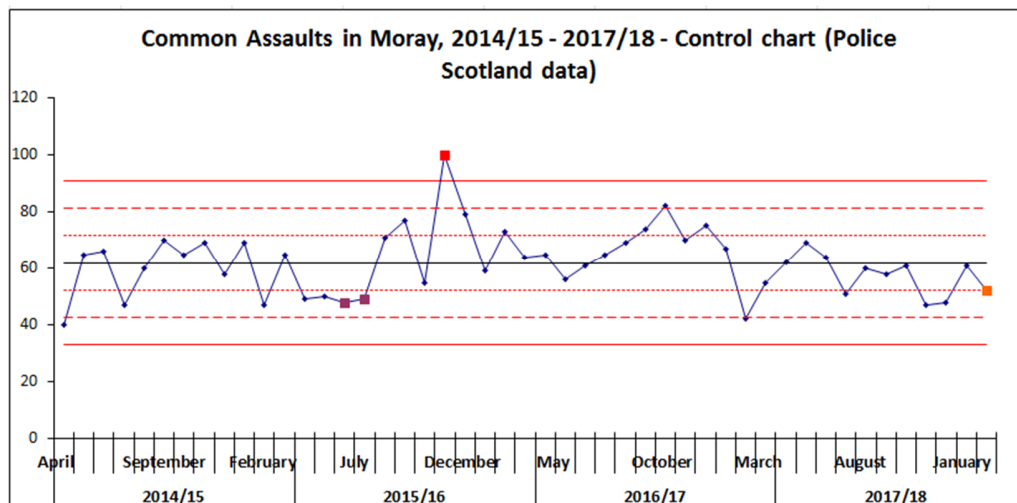


Figure 69: Control chart for Common Assaults shown in Figure 68

Compared to common assaults there are relatively few breaches of the peace, and throughout 2017/18 there were an average of just over 4 incidents per month (Figure 70).

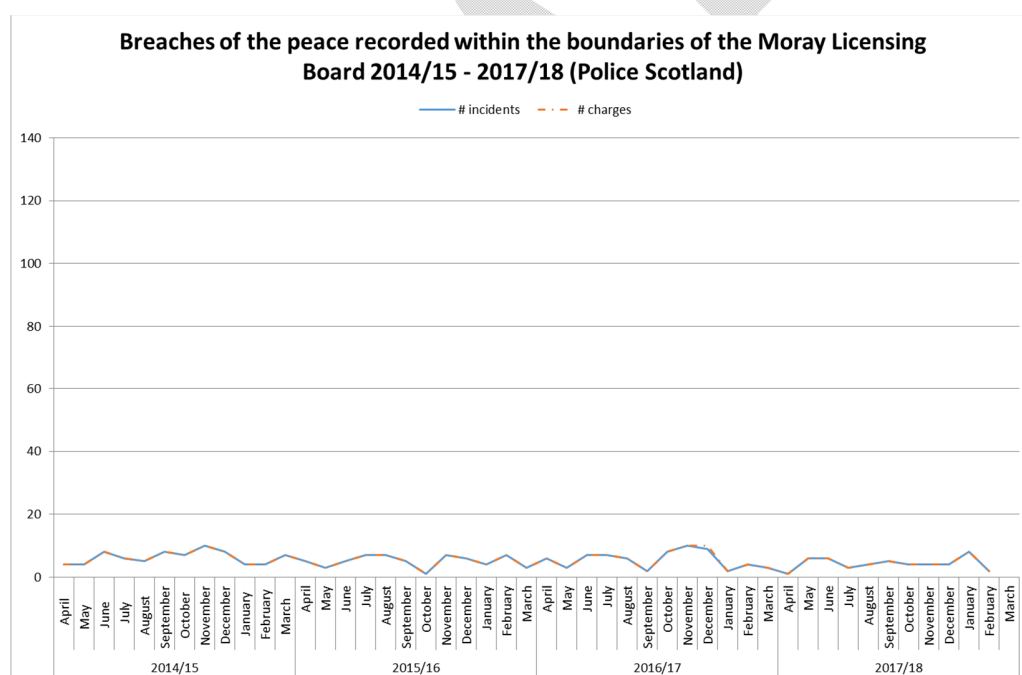


Figure 70: Breaches of the peace recorded within the boundaries of Moray Licensing Board 2104/15 - 2017/18 (Police Scotland)

After a consistent upwards trend from April 2014 to June 2017 the number of incidents of threatening and abusive behaviour has shown a marked month-on-month reduction since the summer of 2017. The 2017-18 monthly average of 47 incidents per month compared to an average of 49 for the previous 2 years. If this monthly average is maintained, then the upwards trend will be reversed in the coming year (Figure 71). The control chart (Figure 72) for this data suggests that during 2016/17 and the early part of

2017/18 the incident rate for threatening an abusive behaviour were statistically out of control, but since then the incident rates are back to earlier levels.

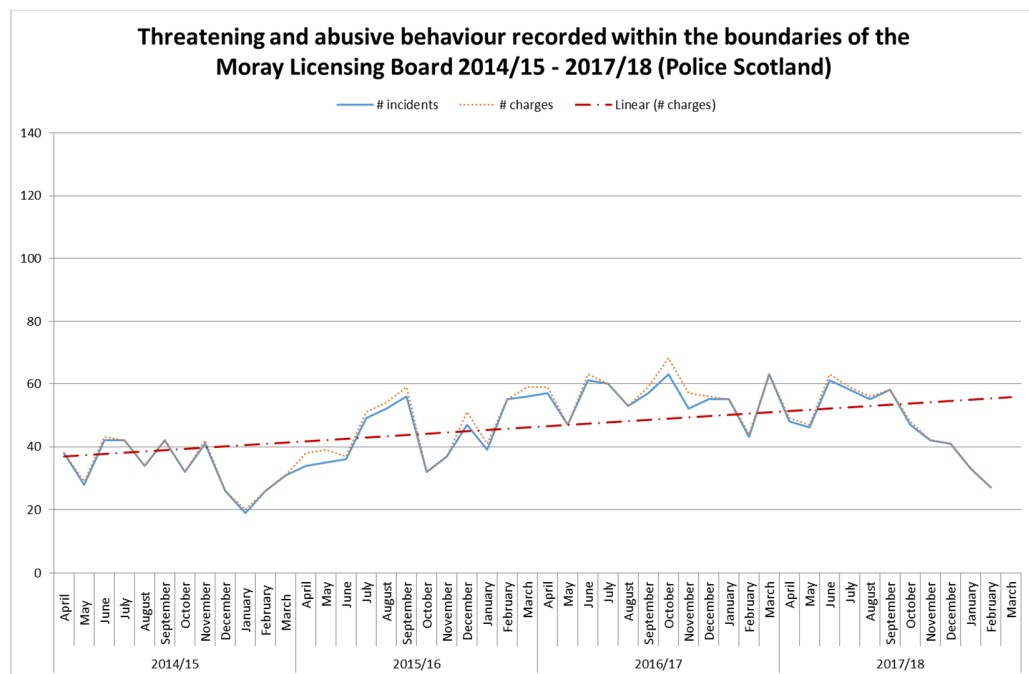


Figure 71: Threatening and abusive behaviour recorded within the boundaries of Moray Licensing Board 2014/15 - 2017/18 (Police Scotland)

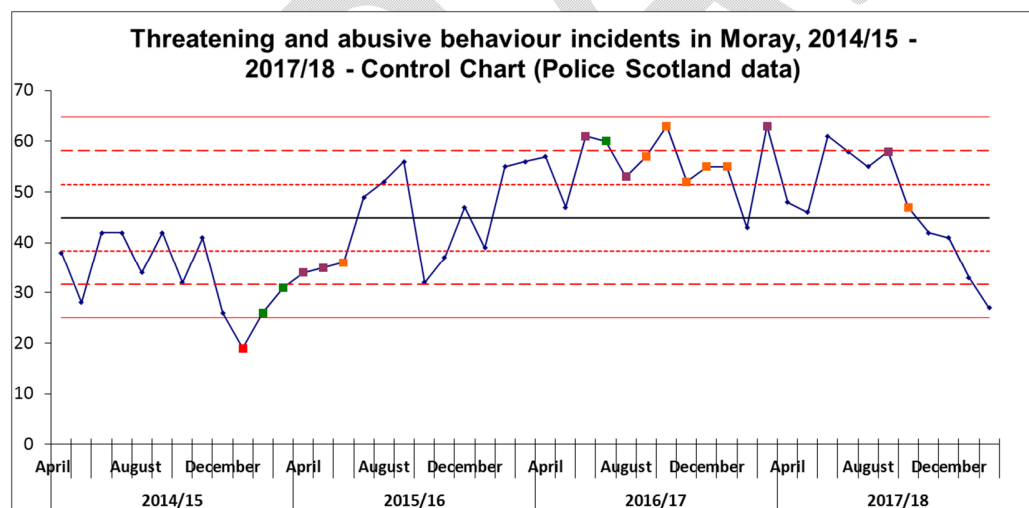


Figure 72: Control chart for threatening and abusive behaviour show in Figure 71

Most of these incidents occurred at the weekend, with the majority occurring in the early hours of Sunday morning (Figure 73). The number of incidents occurring each day is broadly similar from Monday to Thursday, with Tuesday being slightly lower, but the numbers start to rise on a Friday reaching a peak on Sunday. There are more incidents from Friday to Sunday than there are for the rest of the week combined. For example, in 2017/18, excluding March, there were a total of 1,243 incidents: 554 occurred between Monday and Thursday and the remaining 689 over the weekend. From Monday to Thursday

approximately 55% of incidents take place on or near residential property, but at the weekends this proportion drops to 48%. Incidents are more likely to occur in public places on Saturdays and Sundays than during the rest of the week, with the proportion increasing from 22% during the week to 30% at the weekend. Not only do the numbers of incidents in licensed premises increase on Saturdays and Sundays, but the proportion of such incidents increases from under 2% on Mondays to Thursdays to between 6% and 8% at the weekends.

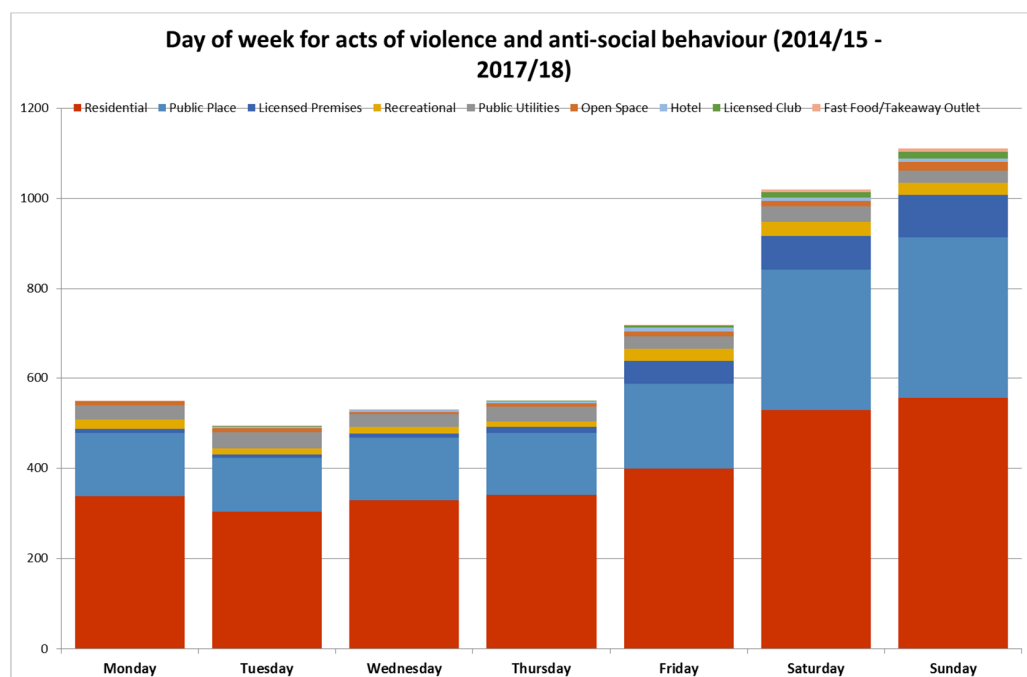


Figure 73: Days of the week when acts of violence and anti-social behaviour occur (Police Scotland)

Violent acts occur in or near residential properties at all times of the day, but more frequently from 6:00pm until 04:00am, with a spike during the hour from midnight to 01:00am. There is also a spike at lunchtime between 12:00 and 12:59 (Figure 74).

In comparison, the majority of the incidents taking place on licenced premises, clubs, hotels or fast-food outlets occurred between the hours of 11:00 o'clock at night until 2:00 in the morning. There were relatively few incidents in these locations after 4:00am and before 7:00pm, and none at all recorded in the past 4 years between 5:00 and 8:00am. Violent incidents occurring in public take place throughout the whole day, but less frequently between 4:00am and 12:00. Again, there is spike between midnight and 2:00am, which may be linked to closing time for li censed premises (Figures 75 and 76).

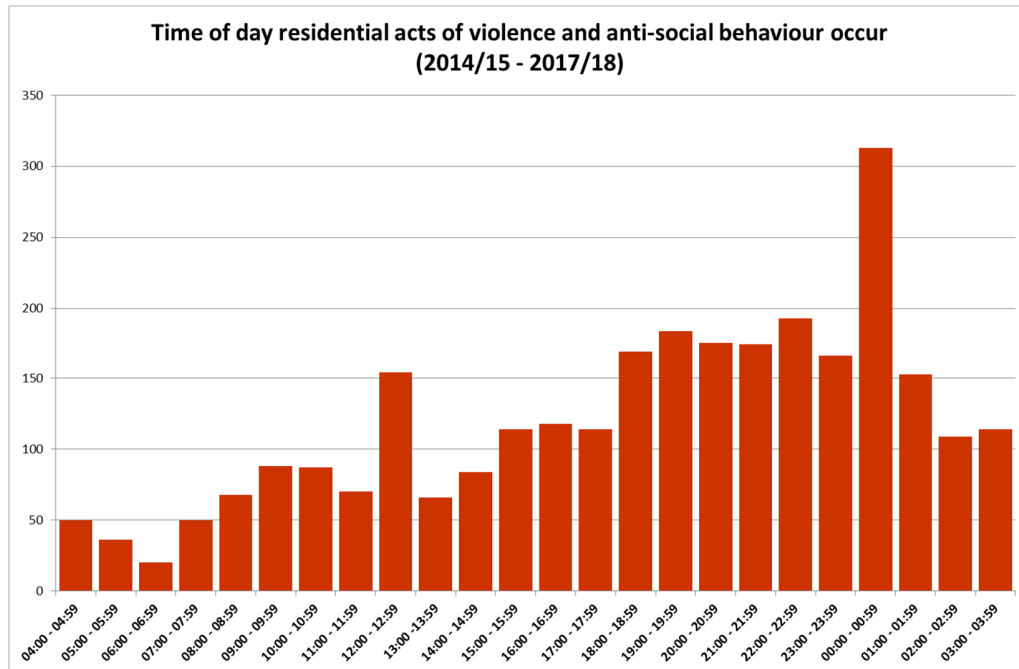


Figure 74: Time of day residential acts of violence and anti-social behaviour occur (all days and all incidents, 2014/15 - 2017/18)

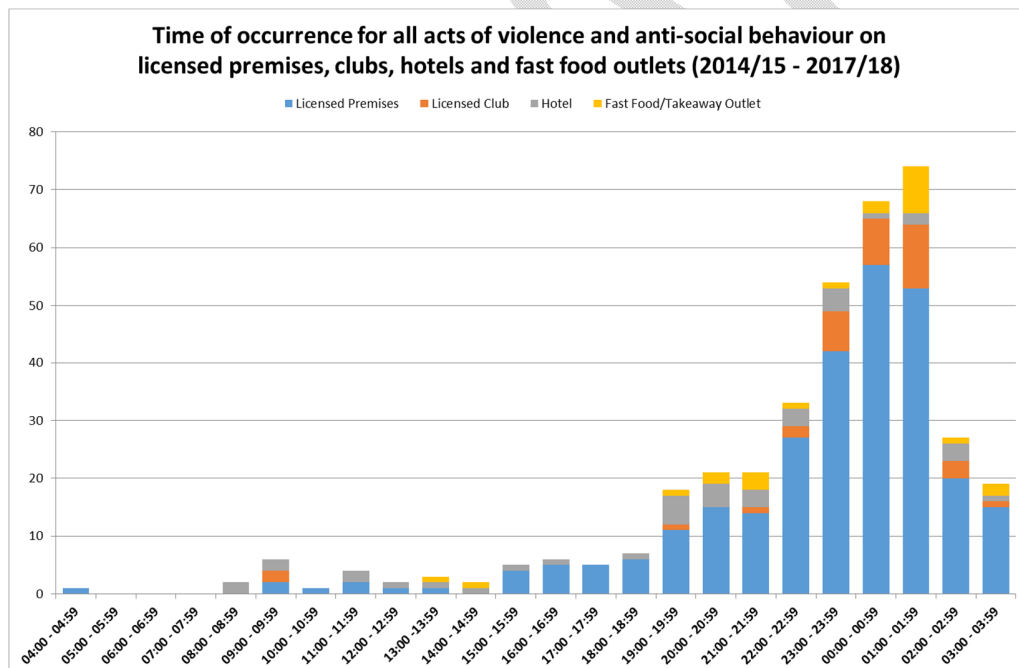


Figure 75: Time of occurrence for acts of violence and anti-social behaviour on licensed premises, clubs, hotels and fast food outlets (all days, 2014/15 - 2017/18)

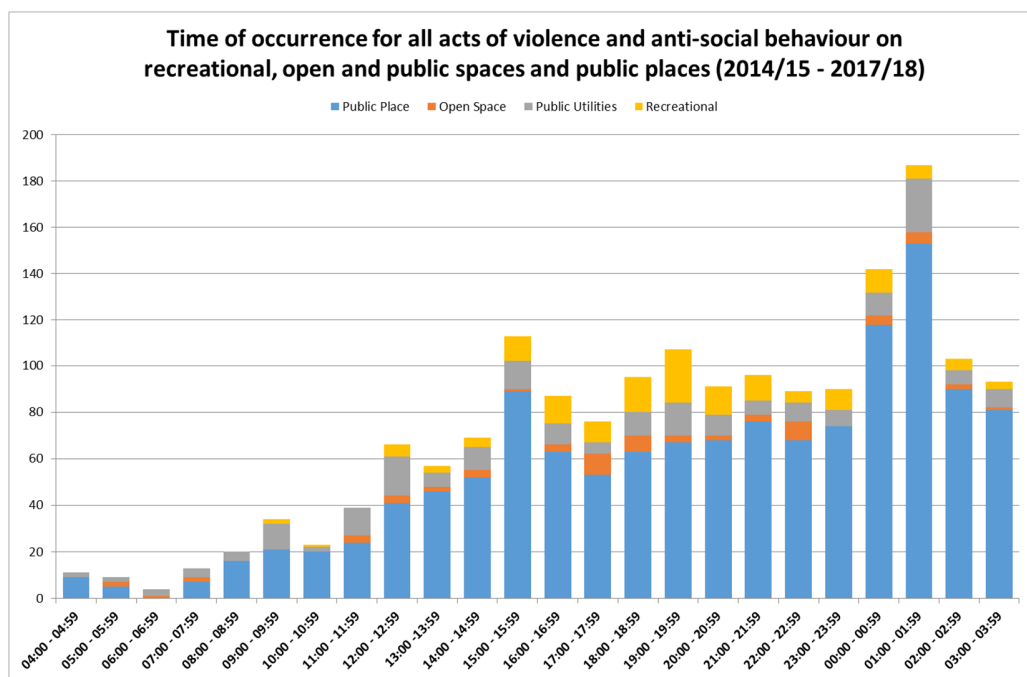


Figure 76: Time of occurrence for all violence on recreational, open and public spaces and public places (all days, 2014/15 - 2017/18)

Examining the individual incident types in more detail shows serious assaults are much more likely to take place in the early hours of Saturday and Sunday morning. To put the figures in context, in 2017/18 there were 47 serious assaults recorded, 10 of which occurred on a Saturday and 18 on a Sunday (Figure 77).

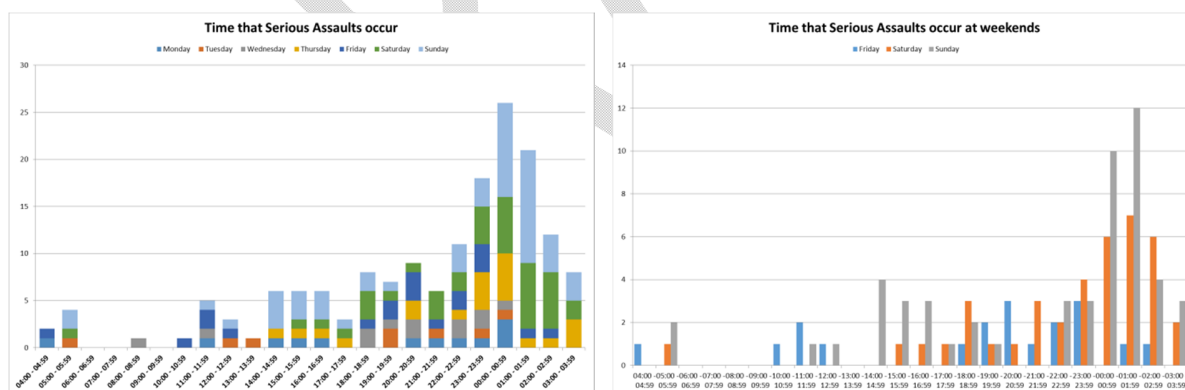


Figure 77: Serious assaults– time and day incidents occur (detail for Friday to Sunday)

Around 40% of serious assaults take place on residential properties and a third in public places (almost all on streets or roads). Fifteen percent (6 assaults per year on average) take place on licensed premises mainly between 11:00pm and 02:00am (Figure 78).

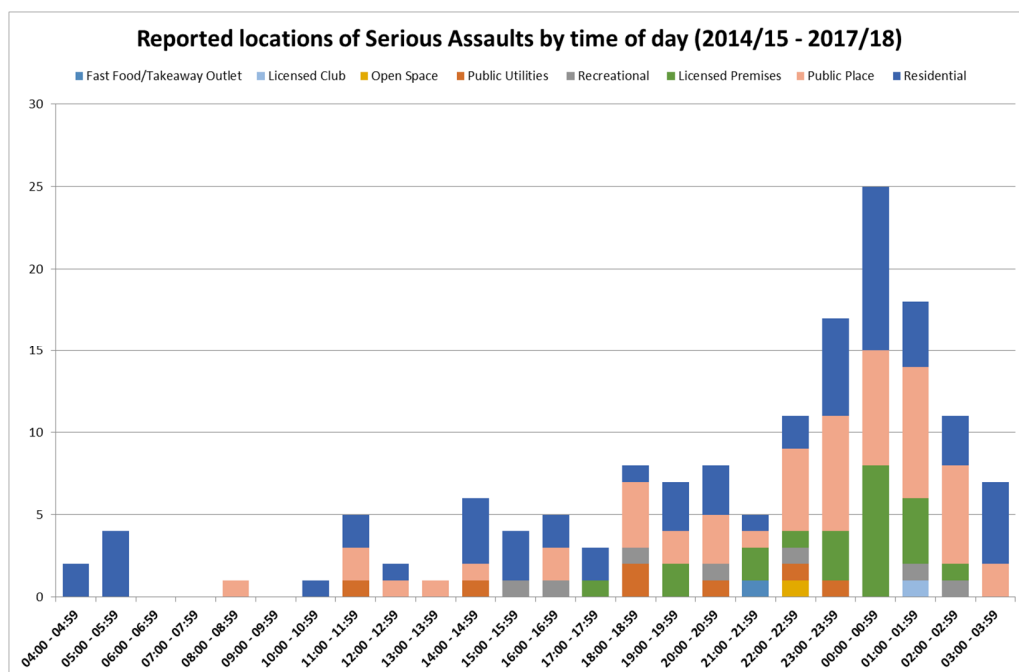


Figure 78: Reported locations of Serious Assaults by time of day (all days, 2014/15 - 2017/18)

In contrast to serious assaults incidents involving common assault are more likely to occur throughout the day from 8:00am to 04:00am. While there are a greater proportion of common assaults in the early hours of Saturday and Sunday morning there are also a significant number of incidents on Friday and Saturday evenings between 7:00pm and midnight. Common assaults³⁰ are the most prevalent of the violent and anti-social incidents with approximately 58 recorded each month on average during 2017/18 (Figure 79).

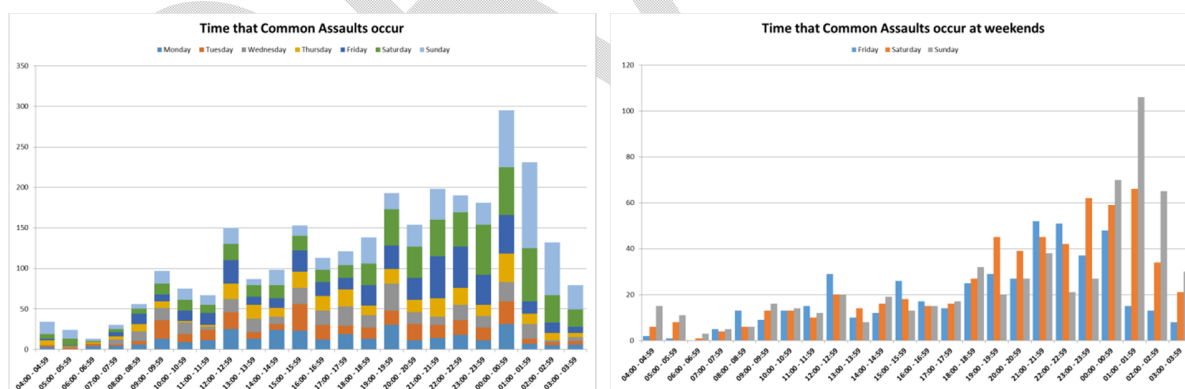


Figure 79: Common assaults – time and day incidents occur (detail for Friday to Sunday)

Sixty per cent of common assaults during the 4 years in question took place on residential premises, predominantly between the hours of 3:00pm to 3:00am, with spikes between midnight and 2:00am, and

³⁰ <http://www.scotland.police.uk/assets/pdf/138327/232757/scottish-crime-recording-standard?view=Standard> (p104)

a smaller spike at noon (Figure 80). Common assaults in public places accounted for a further 25% of such offences, and just 7% occurred in or around licensed premises.

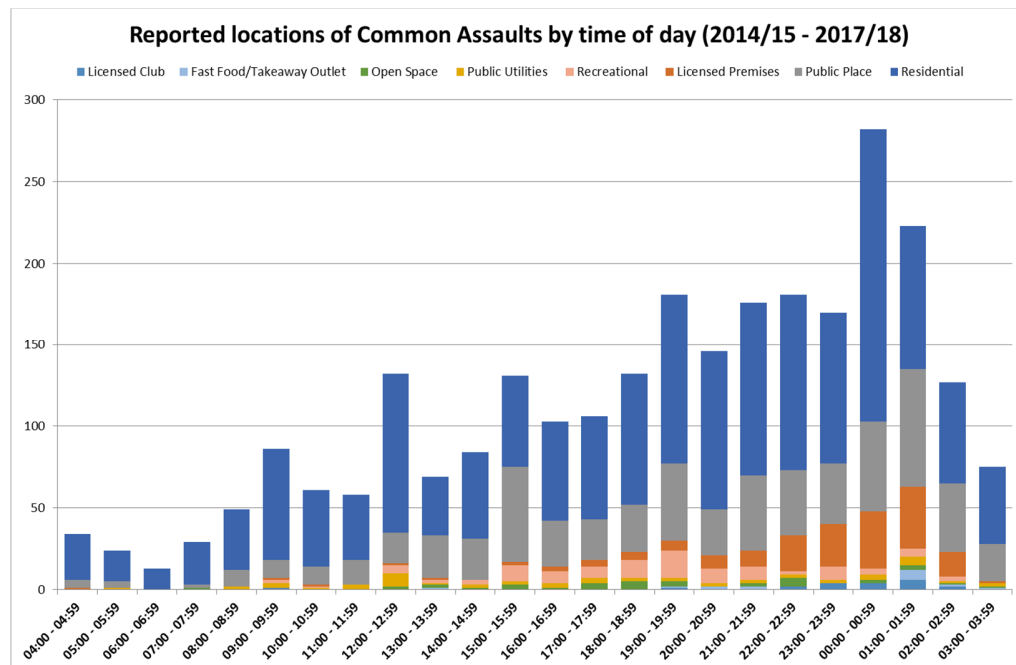


Figure 80: Reported locations of Common Assaults by time of day (all days, 2014/15 - 2017/18)

Breaches of the peace occur more often in the early hours of Saturday and Sunday mornings than at any other time during the week. Looking at the figures for the weekend, the rate over the past 4 years for breaches of the peace is twice as high as on a Sunday between midnight and 4:00am than for the same period on a Saturday morning. Note however, the number of incidents in Moray is low; in 2017/18 there were just 5 incidents reported at this time on a Saturday morning and 10 in the early hours of Sunday morning (Figure 81). The majority (95%) of these incidents took place in public places: mainly streets, some in roads and a few on footpaths. Figure 81 illustrates the rise in breaches of the peace in public places after midnight.

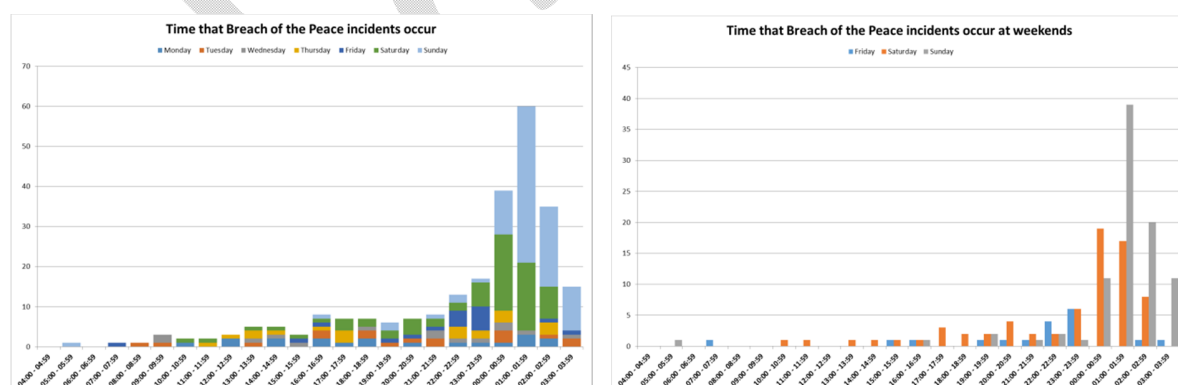


Figure 81: Breaches of the Peace – time and day incidents occur (detail for Friday to Sunday)

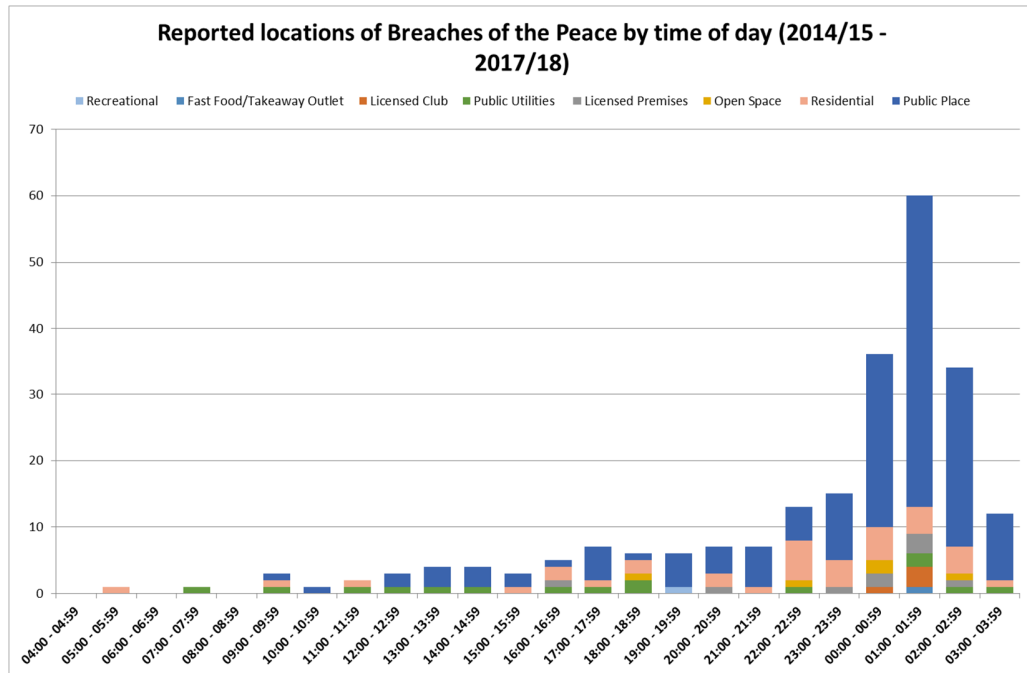


Figure 82: Breaches of the Peace - Location and time of day

Threatening and abusive behaviour is more prevalent throughout the day, and especially after noon, and before 4:00am. There is a spike on Sunday morning between 1:00 and 2:00am, but generally the incidents are more widely distributed from around 4:00pm onwards at weekends (Figure 83). The 2 most common locations are residential premises and public places. Around 12 incidents per year on average take place in hospitals, and 14 in police stations (Figure 84).

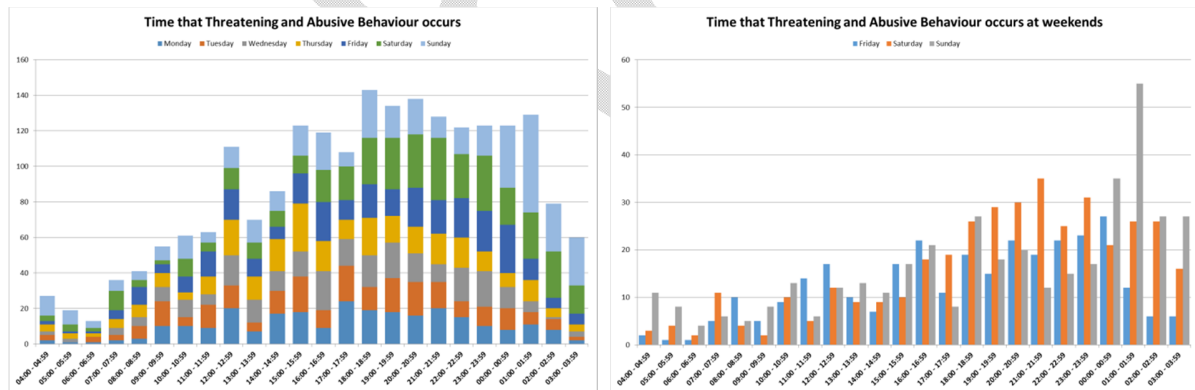


Figure 83: Threatening and Abusive Behaviour – time and day incidents occur (detail for Friday to Sunday)

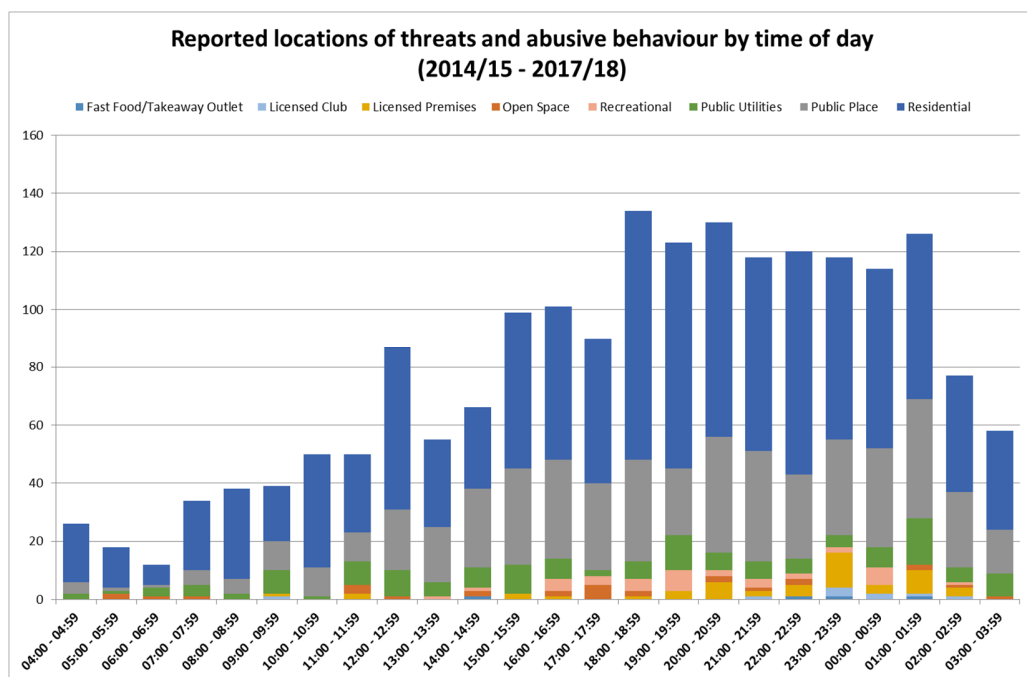


Figure 84: Threatening and Abusive Behaviour - Location and time of day

Although the 2017/18 data does not include the figures for March the total number of incidents has fallen in 2017/18 compared to 2016/17 in all Inspector Areas within Moray (Figure 85). For Elgin & Forres the number of incidents are the lowest during the 4 years 2014/15 to 2017/18/

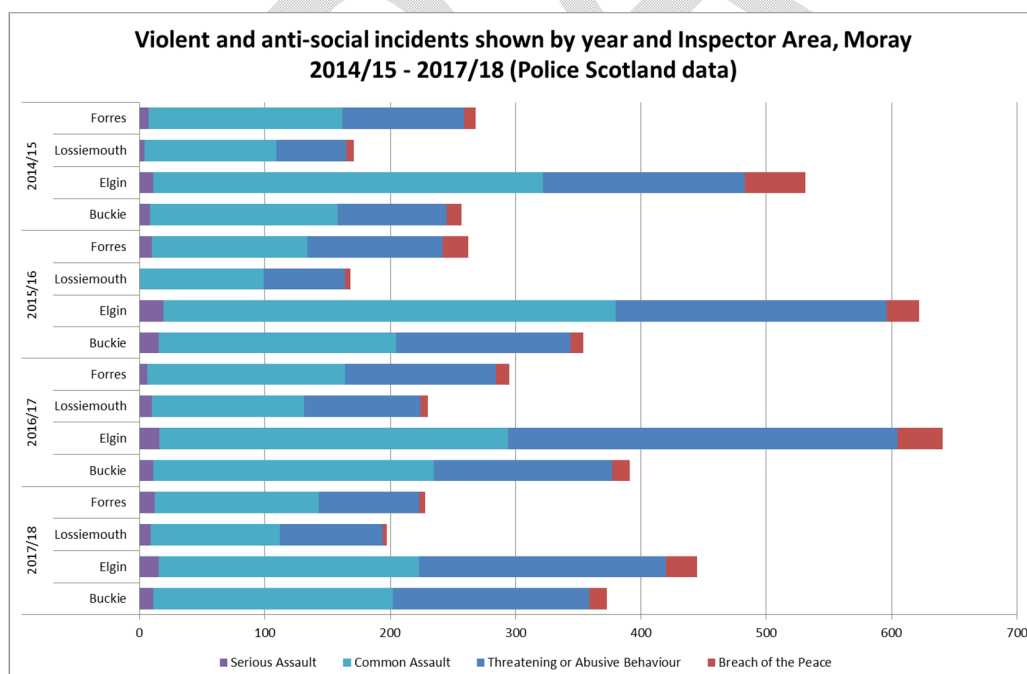


Figure 85: Violent and anti-social incidents by year and inspector area – Moray 2014/15 – 2017/18

Alcohol Focus Scotland, in their April 2018 analysis³¹ stated that crime rates were 7.7 times higher in neighbourhoods with the most alcohol outlets, compared to neighbourhoods with the least. Since the Police Scotland, and ScotPHO data, used for this analysis cover the wider Moray area or the Moray Beat Areas rather than individual neighbourhoods it has not been possible to analyse this statement in more detail. However, an alternative approach has been used to identify a link between higher concentrations of alcohol outlets readily accessible to members of the public and higher rates of violent incidents and anti-social behaviour. For the purposes of this analysis publically accessible alcohol outlets are public houses, nightclubs, hotels and shops and service-stations with off-licences. For Moray overall there are just over 2 publically accessible alcohol outlets per 1,000 residents, and there were an average of 7.5 violent incidents and 6.2 anti-social behaviour incidents per 1,000 residents in 2017/18. Note that the population figures have been derived from Census 2011 data.

2017/18	Serious Assault	Common Assault	Breach of the peace	Threatening or Abusive Behaviour	Total Violent incidents	Total Anti-social behaviour	Total Violent incidents per 1,000 residents	Total Anti-social behaviour per 1,000 residents	# residents	# alcohol outlets	Outlets per 1,000 residents
Elgin North	14	155	23	157	169	180	10.8	11.5	15,652	35	2.24
Elgin South	1	53	2	40	54	42	5.7	4.5	9,426	11	1.17
Buckie/Cullen	5	114	6	97	119	103	8.9	7.7	13,322	33	2.48
Keith	6	77	8	60	83	68	10.7	8.8	7,770	16	2.06
Lossiemouth	8	67	1	60	75	61	6.2	5.1	12,069	20	1.66
Fochabers/Lhanbryde	1	36	2	22	37	24	4.0	2.6	9,318	17	1.82
Forres	10	102	4	70	112	74	7.2	4.7	15,594	25	1.60
Speyside	2	29	1	10	31	11	3.8	1.4	8,053	30	3.73

Table 4: Violent incidents and anti-social behaviour rates by Moray Beat 2017/18

Table 4 suggests that Elgin North and Keith have relatively high rates of violent incidents and antisocial behaviour compared to the rest of Moray, with Buckie/Cullen and Forres above the Moray average. However, Speyside with the highest number of outlets per 1,000 residents has the lowest rate of violent incidents and anti-social behaviour. Speyside has the highest number of hotels for any of the Associated School Group (ASG) areas/beats in Moray and a relatively small population, which may skew the statistics.

The data for Table 5 were derived from figures available for the intermediate zones created in 2011 and then assigned to the appropriate beat. The maps at Figure 86 show the areas covered by the 4 Moray Division Community Policing Teams and the Moray Council ASG. Table 5 provides the breakdown by individual Moray Division beats, the related ASG and the intermediate zones. Note that the 2 ASGs for Elgin share an intermediate zone when converting them to beat areas.

³¹ Alcohol Focus Scotland, April 2018, Alcohol Outlet Availability and Harm in Moray

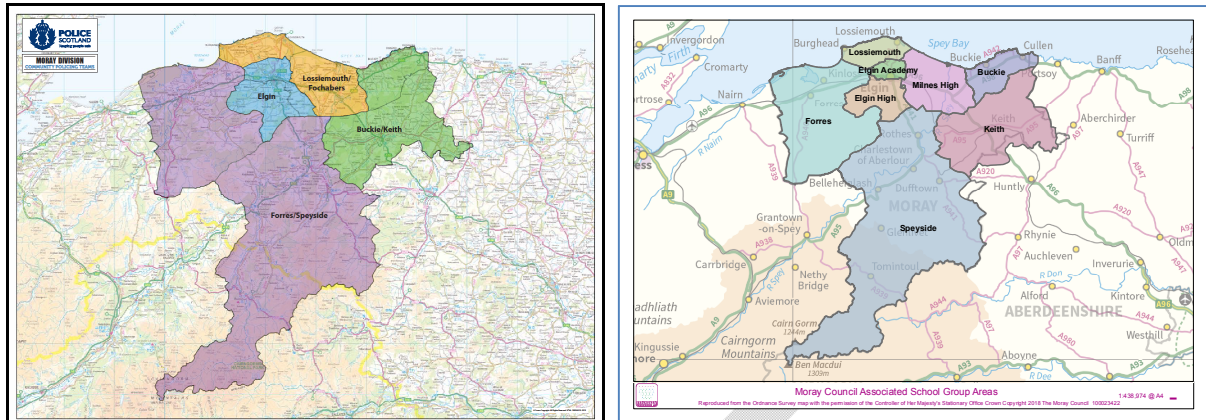


Figure 86: Police Scotland Moray Division Community Policing Teams and Associated School Group areas

Beat	Associated School Group	Intermediate Zones (2011)
Elgin North	Elgin Academy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elgin Central West Elgin Cathedral to Ashgrove and Pinefield Elgin Bishopmill East and Ladyhill Elgin Bishopmill West and Newfield Heldon West, Fogwatt to Inchberry (shared with Elgin High School)
Elgin South	Elgin High School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Elgin East New Elgin West Heldon West, Fogwatt to Inchberry (shared with Elgin Academy)
Buckie/Cullen	Buckie High School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cullen, Portknockie, Findochty, Drybridge and Berryhillock Buckie Central East Buckie West and Mains of Buckie
Keith	Keith Grammar School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rural Keith and Strathisla Keith and Fife Keith
Lossiemouth	Lossiemouth High School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lossiemouth East and Seatown Lossiemouth West Burghead, Roseisle and Laich
Fochabers/Lhanbryde	Milne's High School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mosstodloch, Portgordon and seaward Fochabers, Aultmore, Clochan and Ordiquish Lhanbryde, Urquhart, Pitgavney and seaward
Forres	Forres Academy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Findhorn, Kinloss and Pluscarden Valley Forres Central East and seaward Forres South West and Mannachie Rafford, Dallas, Dyke to Dava
Speyside	Speyside High School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> South Speyside and the Cabrach North Speyside

Table 5: Police Scotland Moray Division Beats, ASGs and Intermediate Zones (2011)

Summary of crime in Moray:

- ScotPHO data for crime in the Moray ADP area reveals relatively low rates of attempted murder & serious assault, vandalism, and breaches of the peace compared to NHS Grampian and Scotland.
 - Common assault levels in the Moray ADP are similar to NHS Grampian and Scotland.
- Similarly, Police Scotland data indicates that serious assaults remain a fairly infrequent occurrence in Moray, while the number of common assaults has reduced since the peak of 100 in November 2015, averaging 58 per month in 2017/18.
- Threatening and abusive behaviour incidents increased steadily in Moray from April 2014 to October 2017, but since then the number of such incidents reported has reduced markedly.
- Friday, Saturday and Sunday are the days when the highest numbers of incidents of all types occur.
 - Serious assaults and Breaches of the Peace are more likely to occur in the early hours of Saturday and Sunday morning
 - Common assaults take place over a wider portion of the day, but as with serious assaults there is a greater proportion in the early hours of Saturday and Sunday morning. Additionally, incidents are also prevalent on Friday and Saturday evenings.
- Most assaults take place on residential properties or in public places (e.g. streets and roads):
 - 40% of serious assaults take place on residential properties, and one-third in public places
 - 60% of common assaults took place on residential properties, and one-quarter in public places.