

## Serious Assault

The Police define assault as, “*an assault in which the victim sustained an injury resulting in detention in hospital as an in-patient or any of the following injuries whether or not detained in hospital:*

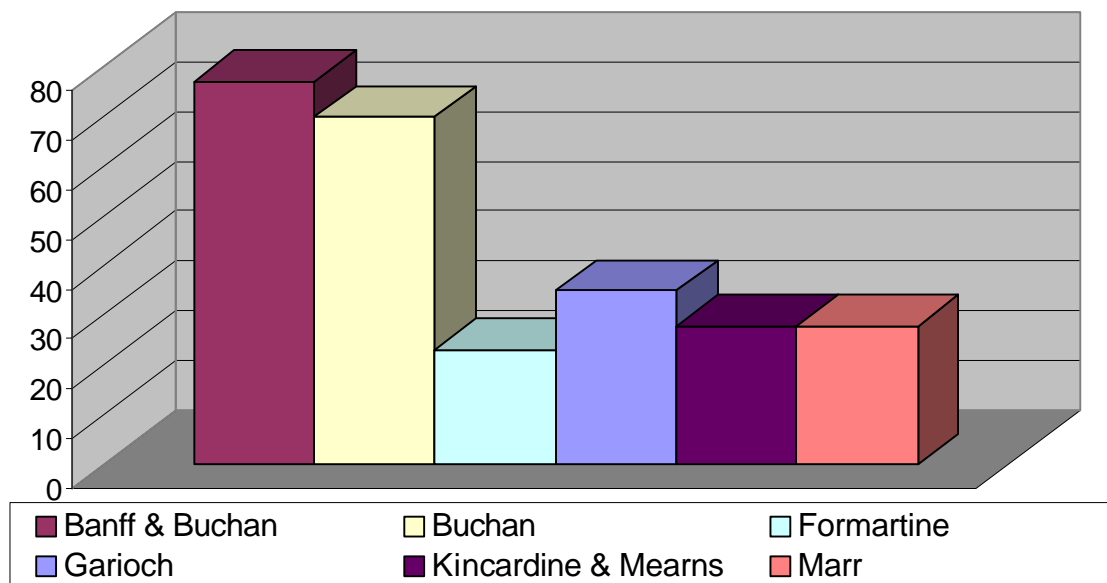
- Fractures
- Concussion
- Internal Injuries
- Crushing
- Severe cuts or lacerations
- Severe general shock requiring medical treatment”.

Source: Scottish Executive

During the three-year period analysed in the Audit, Serious Assault accounted for **2%** of all reported crimes. There was a **1.1%** increase between 2001 and 2002 and a further increase of **2.2%** between 2002 and 2003. In total there was an increase of **3.4%** in reported serious assaults in Aberdeenshire during the three-year period.

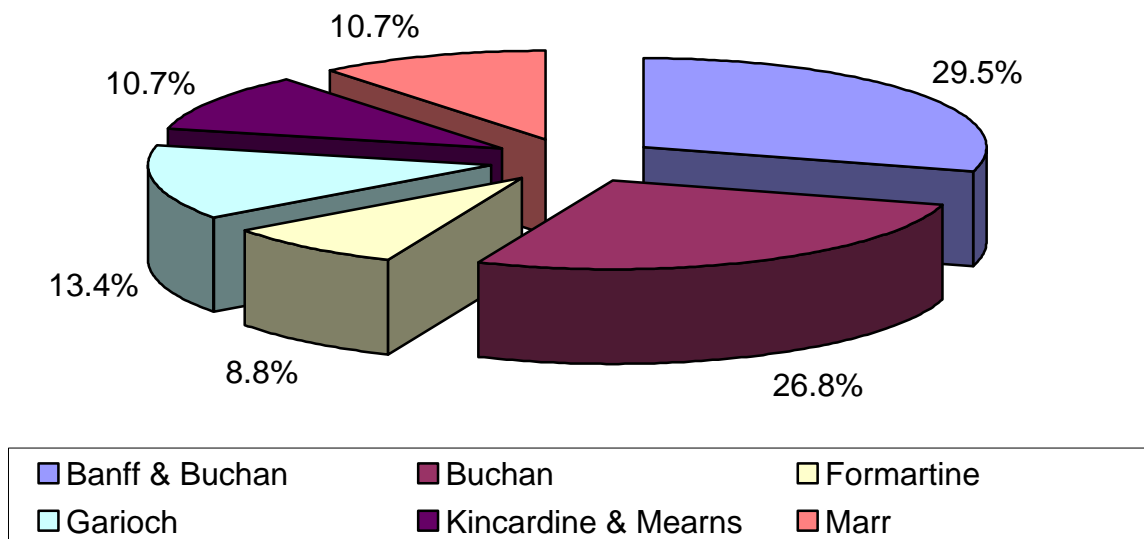
The charts below provide a breakdown of reported incidents of serious assault in Aberdeenshire over the three-year period, by local areas.

### Number of Reported Serious Assaults in Aberdeenshire, by Local Area during the three-year period



Source: Grampian Police

## Percentage of Reported Serious Assaults in Aberdeenshire, by Local Area during the three-year period



Source: Grampian Police

As can be seen above, the highest number of reported Serious Assaults during the three-year period analysed in the Audit occurred in the Banff & Buchan and Buchan areas. The number of serious assaults occurring in the Banff & Buchan accounted for **29.5%** of all reported incidents of serious assaults during the three-year period, with the Buchan area accounting for **26.8%** of all reported serious assaults in Aberdeenshire. The area with the lowest number of reported incidents of serious assault is the Formartine area, which accounted for **8.8%** of the recorded incidents of serious assaults in Aberdeenshire.

### Assault & Robbery

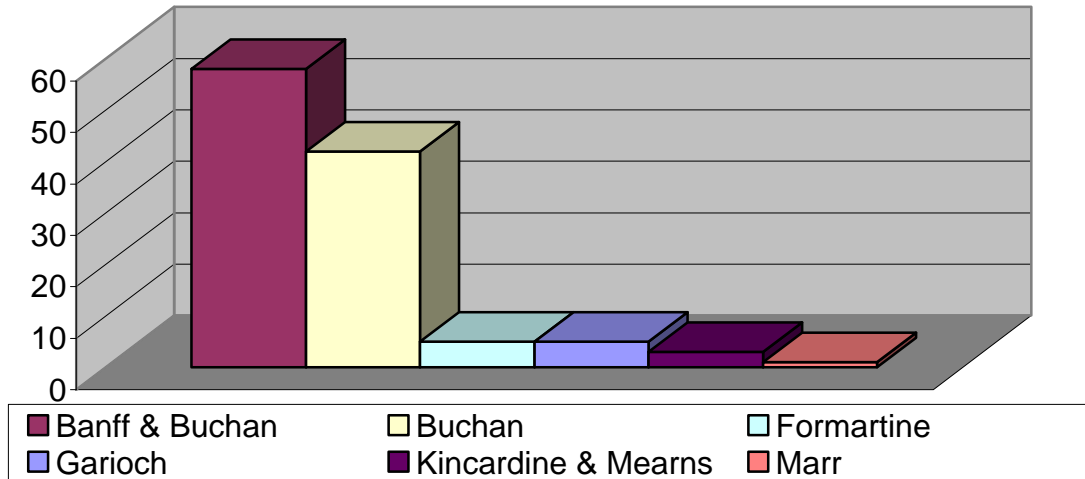
It is stated "*robbery is the crime of taking the property of another from him forcibly either by personal violence or intimidation*". Therefore, violence is an essential accompaniment of robbery but the violence may be constructive and need not take the form of actual physical assault. However, it is sufficient if the owner is compelled to submit to the appropriation of his property under fear of immediate personal injury, for an assault and robbery to be committed.

Source: The Laws of Scotland: The Stair Memorial Encyclopaedia, Volume 7, paragraphs 357-361 (1988, Butterworths) and the Scottish Criminal Law Manual.

Assault and Robbery accounted for **1%** of all reported crimes in Aberdeenshire during the three-year period analysed in the Audit. Between 2001 and 2002, reported incidents of assault and robbery in Aberdeenshire with an increased of **37.9%**. The number of reported incidents then rose by **20%** between 2002 and 2003. In total, the number of reported incidents of assault and robbery in Aberdeenshire increased by **65.5%** during the three-year period analysed in the Audit.

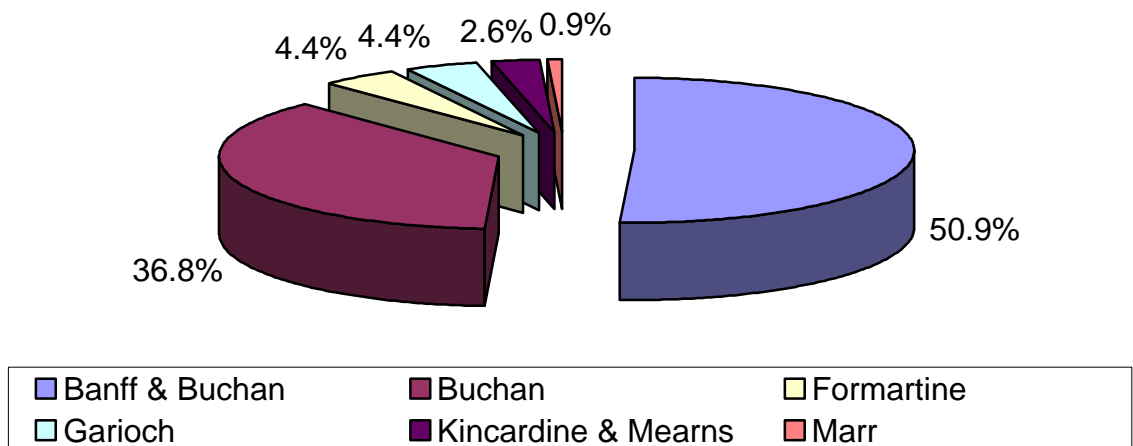
The highest number of reported incidents of assault and robbery in Aberdeenshire occurred in the Banff & Buchan area, which accounted for **50.9%** of all reported incidents of this type of crime. The number of incidents occurring in the Buchan area (**36.8%**) was also significantly higher than the number of incidents in other areas within Aberdeenshire. The area with the lowest number of reported incidents of assault and robbery was Marr, which accounted for **0.9%** of all incidents of this type.

**Number of Reported Incidents of Assault and Robbery in Aberdeenshire, by Local Area during the three-year period**



Source: Grampian Police

**Percentage of Reported Incidents of Assault and Robbery in Aberdeenshire, by Local Area during the three-year period**



Source: Grampian Police

## WHAT DOES THIS TELL US?

- Reporting of Serious Assaults has increased by 3.4% in the last three-years. There has been a 65.5% increase in reported incidents of Assault & Robbery in the last three-years.