

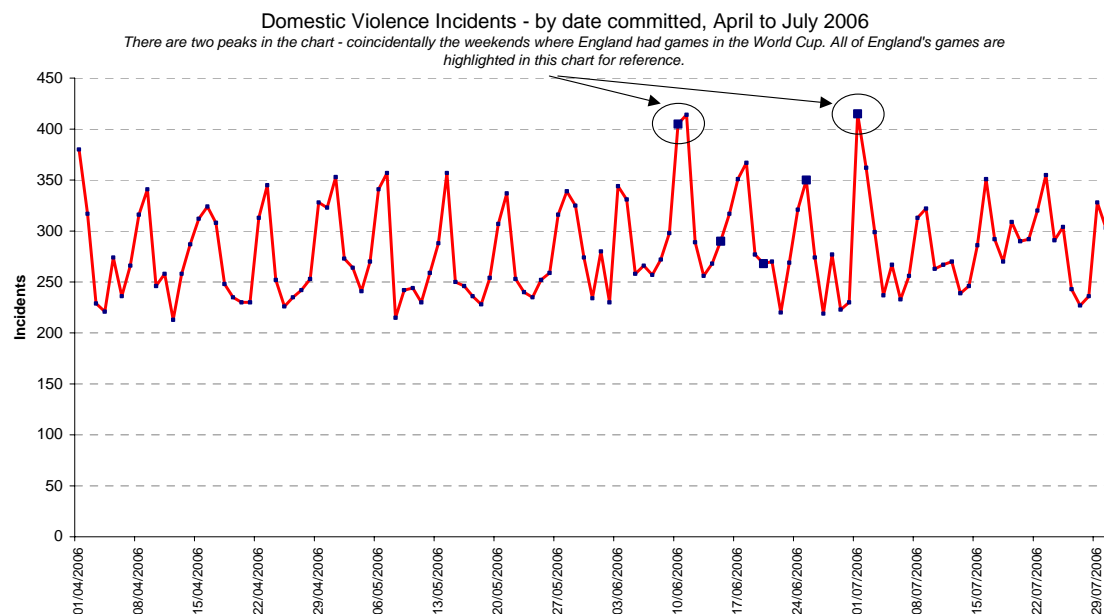
### Analysis of Domestic Violence during the World Cup

Domestic violence increased to a rate far higher than the average on the two weekends when England had significant World Cup games, the opening game against Paraguay and the game when Portugal knocked England out of the World Cup. Each of these games was likely to have generated greater interest than the other England games played on weekdays which did not show any additional increase in domestic violence incidents.

#### Findings

Domestic violence incidents<sup>1</sup> averaged 275 per day in both April and May 2006, and rose to an average of 290 per day in June and July. Only three days over this period had more than 400 domestic violence incidents reported, and it is unlikely to be a coincidence that these were 10 & 11 June (England played Paraguay on 10 June) and 1 July (the day Portugal knocked England out of the World Cup).

#### Chart 1

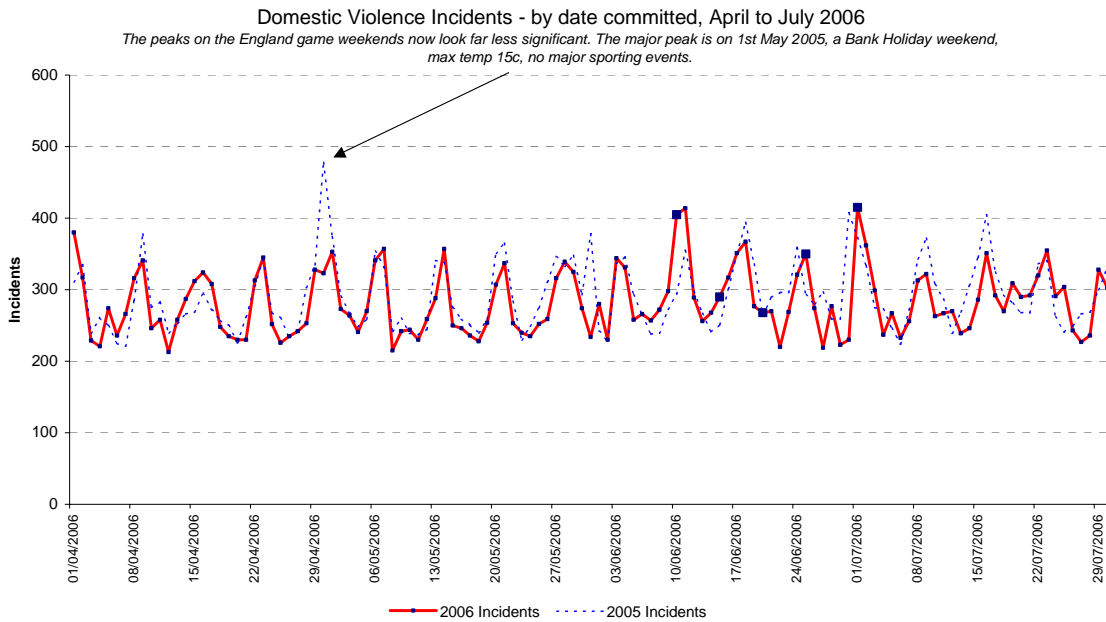


Domestic violence was higher in these two days, and the levels are statistically significant. Although the daily incidents figures here seem high, they remain lower than figures regularly reported over the New Year period – this year 575 incidents on 1 January, and 682 incidents on 1 January 2005.

Last year, the summer peak for domestic violence also occurred on the first weekend of July, when 'Live 8' took place. By overlaying 2005 on 2006 and aligning the days of the week, so that the 2005 days of the week line up with their 2006 counterparts, we see that the violence recorded on those weekends is not particularly high when taken in context:

<sup>1</sup> CRIS records which have a 'dv' flag

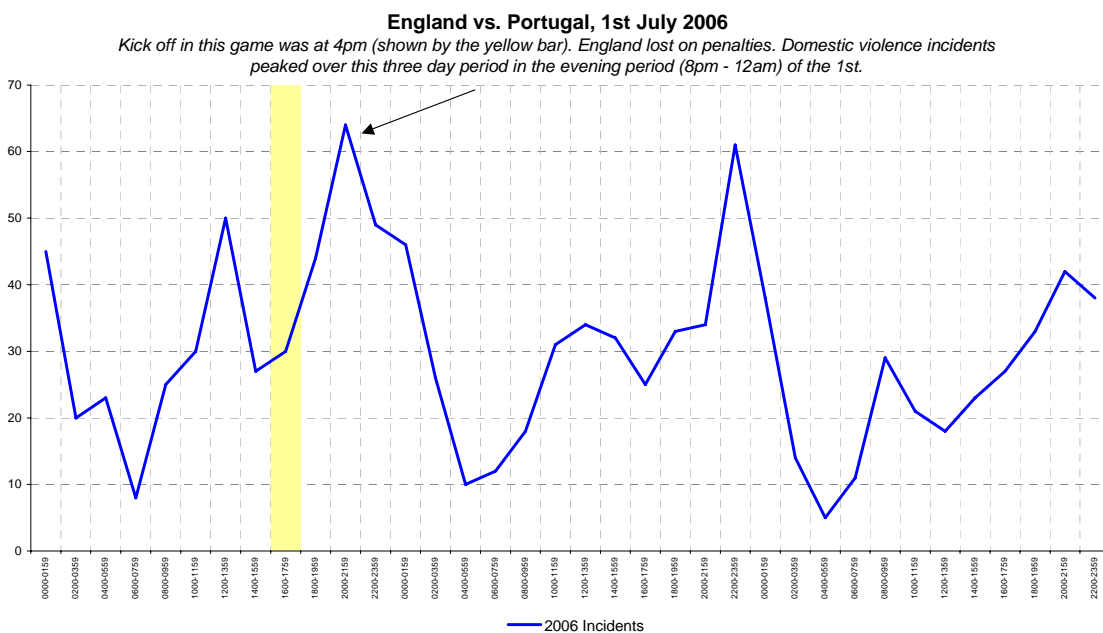
## Chart 2



There is one obvious peak in this chart – that of 1 May 2005, yet there is no obvious explanation for this. The maximum temperature recorded was 15°C, it was a Bank Holiday weekend, and there were no major sporting events taking place. No major changes in recording took place at the beginning of May 2005.

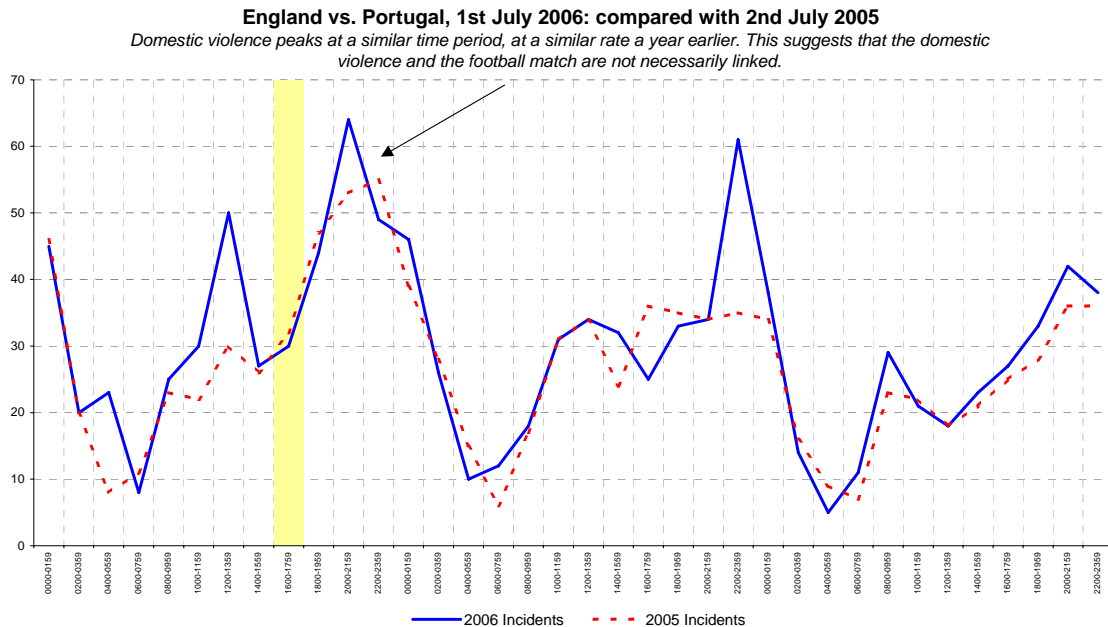
Referring back to the 2006 World Cup weekends, on those days when violence peaked, the high volumes of violence occurred in the evening hours:

## Chart 3



It appears though, that this is general trend in the reporting of domestic violence. Again by adding the same period last year into the chart, a similar result occurs, domestic violence reporting peaks in the evening, at a similar level, even though there is no World Cup football match:

### **Chart 4**



While domestic violence was reported at significantly higher levels on the weekends where England played in World Cup games, the domestic violence incidents rate was significantly higher than average on similar weekends last year. We therefore cannot conclude that the World Cup events are a direct cause of the peaks in domestic violence during the period. Football possibly adds to the other complex factors involved in the occurrence of domestic violence, e.g. alcohol, as football may be a facilitator to drinking too much.

The MPS is constantly working with its partners to identify significant events in the calendar year and support various events. For example, the MPS supports The International Campaign Against Violence against Women (16 days of activism which commences on 25 November 2006, which is the International day against violence against women).

There is further room for improvement, and we need to do more environmental scanning (with our strategic partners including the MPA) for the other major events and significant periods e.g. Holiday periods, not just sporting events.