

Can the FIFA world cup football (soccer) tournament be associated with an increase in domestic abuse?

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Abstract

Objectives

This study aims to establish whether empirical evidence exists to support the anecdotal view that the FIFA world cup football (soccer) tournament can be associated with a rise in reported domestic abuse incidents, when viewed remotely via television.

Methods

A quantitative analysis, using Poisson and negative binomial regression models looked at monthly and daily domestic abuse incidents reported to a police force in the North West of England across three separate tournaments (2002, 2006, 2010).

Results

The study found two statistically significant trends. A match day trend showed the risk of domestic abuse rose by 26% when the English national team won or drew, and a 38% increase when the national team lost. Secondly a tournament trend was apparent, as reported domestic abuse incidents increased in frequency with each new tournament.

Conclusions

Although this is a relatively small study it has significant ramifications due to the global nature of televised football (soccer) tournaments. If replicated it presents significant opportunities to identify and reduce incidents of domestic abuse associated with televised soccer games.

Introduction

Immediately prior to the 2010 FIFA football (soccer) world cup tournament UK news agencies published a variety of headlines warning of an associated increase in domestic violence (Fresco & Sanderson, 2010; BBC News, 2010; Baron, 2010). However, although raising awareness, these reports lacked sufficient detail or scientific validity to sustain a wider debate or generate any systematic intervention. The notion that a televised football (soccer) tournament, whilst viewed remotely, could generate a social stimulus powerful enough to be associated with an increase in domestic abuse has significant ramifications. This is because soccer continues to evolve as a global business; the English Premier League, for example, involves 337 foreign players from 66 countries with games being televised to over 200 countries. Other European leagues, such as La Liga (Spain), Serie A (Italy) and Bundesliga (Germany) are also televised internationally with the European Champions League final watched by 109 million people across the world (The Barclays Premier League, 2011). In an increasingly diverse and globalised world soccer is no longer a local pastime but generates allegiance from supporters across the developed world. It is therefore important to establish whether an association with domestic violence is a social myth, or whether it can be confirmed through empirical evidence.

Theoretical background

Although there is no published study exploring the relationship between the viewing of televised soccer and domestic abuse there is a body of research that suggests this association could exist. Although commentators argue the complexity of domestic abuse requires a multi-faceted explanation, attempts to explain it have generally fallen between individual and social-structural accounts (Robinson, 2010). Individual or psychological explanations highlight the importance of personal factors, an example being 'social learning theory' that argues specific behaviour is determined through watching others. As commentators have argued, "Being a victim of physical abuse, or witnessing the abuse of other family members, teaches boys to become violent" (Bevan and Higgins, 2002: 225), and "the girl, seeing her mother as a victim of violence, chooses a violent partner and ... becomes the victim" (Lockton and

Ward, 1997: 29), thereby creating a cycle of violence (Fagan, 2005). Other psychological explanations include: mental health problems (which can also emanate from a difficult upbringing); post- traumatic stress disorder; anxiety; depression; poor anger management; dissociation; frustration and substance abuse.

Conversely social-structural explanations, often created through feminist-led research, have focused on wider cultural factors, specifically the imbalance of power between males and females. In this way violence is viewed as a symptom of wider situational concerns, being “....both a product and an expression (or ‘performance’) of socialization, genderization, and acculturation into narrow and persisting values of ‘being a man’, and into a society underpinned by asymmetrical power relations’ (Thurston and Beynon, 1995: 181). ‘Lashing out at their partner can therefore be used to endorse impressions of masculinity or serve as a cathartic release to feelings of male inadequacy generated through social problems such as unemployment, poverty, or everyday stresses’ (Agnew, 1985: 151). Indeed an increase in domestic abuse has been associated with periods of high unemployment (Lockton and Ward, 1997: 28), and recession (Morris and Grady, 2009).

Turning more specifically towards soccer, the game has experienced a long cultural association with both violence and masculinity. Carnibella et al. (1996), have pointed out that general acts of violence have been associated with the game since its origins in 13th Century England and observed across much of Europe; specifically England, Italy, Netherlands, Germany, Spain, France, Czech Republic, Greece and Albania. In fact Quigg et al. (2010) found the 2010 world cup tournament was associated with a 37.5% rise in admission rates across 15 hospital emergency departments on England match days. There also appears a similar phenomenon with American football; Rees & Schnepel (2009) found increased reports of assault, vandalism and arrests for disorderly conduct and alcohol related offences whilst monitoring six seasons of college football. Similar to domestic abuse commentators argue there is no universal explanation for football associated violence explaining different reasons exist, dependent on country and situation. However such explanations again generally follow individual and socio-cultural explanations. For example studies have

suggested that testosterone levels increase in individuals when watching football matches, a chemical associated with an upsurge in aggression, causing Bernhardt et al. (1998:59) to observe that fans identify with team success or failure as their own. Further Swain (2000: 103) argued, "Football (soccer) is full of aggressive intent, about winners and losers, territorial, space-occupying domination, and where loyalty and commitment to the side are prized values".

Although no prior study has associated soccer with domestic violence this correlation has already been established with American Football. Card & Dahl (2011) found that home based male-on-female partner violence increased by 10% following a televised upset loss, experienced by their home NFL team. This behaviour was concentrated at the end of the game and became more pronounced for the most important matches. Other situational factors have also been associated with interpersonal conflict. Television influences both attitude and behaviour not only because of the content but because it generates changes in interpersonal interaction (Dahl & DellaVigna, 2009). Gantz et al. (2006) established that program preference disputes between husbands and wives are greatest when watching televised sports. Similarly in the UK there has been a move to display soccer games on large screens in public bars bringing individuals together in confined social spaces. Finally, alcohol is a commonly observed factor associated with both football violence and domestic abuse. The risk of partner violence is 'often increased by excessive drinking and poorly managed emotions' (Baron, 2010), a finding supported by Gayford (1975: 196) who, surveying 100 domestic violence victims articulated a picture, "...of men with low frustration tolerance, who often completely lose control under the influence of alcohol". Indeed one study highlighted alcohol consumption as a contributory factor in 36% of domestic abuse cases (Lockton and Ward, 1997: 28).

These facilitators play a significant role in theories that enhance the importance of context when understanding and reducing crime. Rational Choice Theory (Felson, 2002), for example, argues crime occurs as a result of the normal rhythms of everyday life. In this way commentators have established domestic violence occurs more frequently on weekends (Gantz et al. 2006; Vazquez et al. 2005); and on

exceptionally warm days and major holidays (Card & Dahl, 2011). Although Oths & Robertson (2007) reported no increase in women seeking refuge in 'safe houses' during established 'drinking holidays' (i.e. the U.S. Superbowl), the fact they were more likely to flee during extended school holidays makes it possible this decision-making was more aligned to pragmatism than the level of incidents. What does appear clear is that situations have an affect on offending patterns and as new situations are generated they create the conditions for further offences to take place. Extending this view it is possible to imagine how watching the world cup tournament (even remotely), in close proximity to others can heighten the stressors associated with domestic abuse.

Obviously if increased domestic abuse is associated with the world cup tournament then such an understanding can inform interventions to reduce it. As Clarke (1997:4) says 'Situational prevention comprises opportunity-reducing measures that are directed at highly specific forms of crime and involve the management, design or manipulation of the immediate environment in as systemic and permanent way as possible'. However before this approach is explored a much clearer understanding must be gained as to whether domestic violence incidents do increase during the world cup tournament.

Methodology

The purpose of this research was to establish whether the FIFA world cup tournament was associated with an increase in domestic violence in the UK. Proving or disproving such a hypothesis presents numerous methodological issues; the most obvious being the identification of domestic abuse itself. The terms 'domestic abuse' and 'domestic violence' are often interchanged. Whereas domestic violence more often describes physical assault, domestic abuse is defined more widely and can include 'physical, psychological, sexual or financial violence that takes place within an intimate or family- type relationship, forming a pattern of coercive and controlling

behaviour' (Women's Aid, 2007). Similarly the term 'domestic' can include "violence between spouses or between parents and children, between non-married partners, siblings, or between those in more distant familial relationships" (Tadros, 2005, cited in Herring, 2008: 378). This diversity conjures up significant difficulty when trying to measure the extent of the problem.

Even when a definition is chosen there is difficulty obtaining accurate data. 'Self report' studies, such as the British Crime Survey (BCS) are generally accepted as the most reliable (Hope, 2004). However one of the weaknesses of the BCS is that it provides annual trends and is insufficiently detailed to monitor the short periods required for this type of analysis. To combat this problem the study uses police data, although gaps are apparent as UK based commentators estimate only 24% of domestic violence incidents are reported (Walby and Allen, 2004). These low reporting levels have been observed in wider international studies, causing commentators to refer to domestic abuse as the 'hidden violence against women' (Stanko, 1988; Farrell, 1992; Walby, 2005).

However one of the benefits of using UK police data is that domestic abuse incidents are monitored separately to other violent crime. During 1990 UK Home Office circulars 60 & 139 both prioritised and standardised the response to domestic abuse, requiring police forces to establish dedicated 'Domestic Violence Officers' and collate incidents accurately (Grace, 1990). This process has not changed significantly and, unlike other violent crime, domestic violence can be recorded with a minimal level of proof - a slap or shove being sufficient to record an incident (Lockton and Ward, 1997). Therefore a database in each Police jurisdiction collates all incidents of domestic abuse and does not require the instigation of a prosecution. As such any flaws in the process have been consistent resulting in more reliable trends. For the purpose of this research recorded incidents include those victims who have reported to the police a violent or threatening act from an individual they are currently (or have recently been), in an intimate relationship with.

Having established that police data would be used it was decided to analyse the three most recent tournaments: 2002, 2006 and 2010 as well as the years prior to the tournament (2001, 2005, 2009), to establish any wider trends. The study placed particular scrutiny on the England matches as it was felt these games would increase the stressors associated with the situation. The England fixtures are shown below and the winner of each match is highlighted in bold italic (a draw is indicated by the absence of bold italic.).

31st May -30th June 2002, Hosted by Korea/ Japan:

- Sunday 02nd June (England V Sweden)
- Friday 07th June (**England** V Argentina)
- Wednesday 12th June (England V Nigeria)
- Saturday 15th June (**England** V Denmark)
- Friday 21st June (England V **Brazil**)

9th June – 9th July 2006, Hosted by Germany:

- Saturday 10th June (**England** V Paraguay)
- Thursday 15th June (**England** V Trinidad and Tobago)
- Tuesday 20th June (England V Sweden)
- Sunday 25th June (**England** V Ecuador)
- Saturday 01st July (England V **Portugal**)

11th June – 11th July 2010, Hosted by South Africa:

- Saturday 12th June (England V USA)
- Friday 18th June (England V Algeria)
- Wednesday 23rd June (**England** V Slovenia)
- Sunday 27th June (England V **Germany**)

(FIFA, 2010)

The Lancashire Constabulary, who with approximately 6,000 staff is the 11th largest of 43 police forces in England and Wales, provided the data. This Constabulary was seen as a suitable agency for a number of reasons. First it polices a diverse area covering a location of 2000 square miles in the North West of England, with a population of 1.4 million divided between urban (Blackburn, Preston), rural (Lancaster) and tourist (Blackpool) locations. Furthermore, the Constabulary acknowledges domestic abuse as a policing priority and has adhered to national standards in relation to information recording.

Method

The monthly number of police recorded domestic violence incidents for 2001, 2002, 2005, 2006, 2009 and 2010 were obtained from Lancashire Constabulary. In addition, daily counts of recorded domestic violence incidents were obtained for the tournament periods (approximately a month), starting on the 1st June 2002, 1st June 2006 and 1st June 2010. The daily analysis provides a more detailed examination of day-to-day variation, and also allowed the inspection of reported incidents the day after England matches were played. Unfortunately no wider situational variables were available from the police agency. It is also important to note that during the World Cup tournament, soccer matches are played on most days. As such it is felt factors such as a multi cultural population, different team allegiance, and the fact that other team fixtures can affect the England outcome, can all serve to impact upon interpersonal relationships. However, the hypothesis to be tested is that overall, domestic abuse incidents will increase in England on the dates the national (England) team play abroad.

The two sets of data were examined visually as well as statistically through Poisson regression and Poisson negative binomial regression models. Poisson regression is appropriate for count data, and negative binomial is appropriate for count data

which is over dispersed or where there is unmeasured variability, for example day-to-day variation in weather conditions, or holidays over the period. Negative binomial models are increasingly being used in criminology in victimisation studies; for example, to model repeat victimisation (Tseloni,2006) and exposure to violence (Reingle et al, 2011).

Main effects Poisson models were first fitted to the observed monthly counts of the domestic abuse incidents. If this model failed to fit (according to the likelihood ratio goodness of fit statistic G^2), then it would be replaced with the negative binomial model. For the monthly analysis, an exposure variable of the number of days in the month was also included in the model as well as year, and month of year (12 levels). A dummy identifying world cup month was specified as explanatory categorical factors. Formally, this model can be written as:

$$\ln(C_i) = \eta_i = \ln(E_i) + \alpha_j + \beta_k + \gamma_l$$

with $C_i \sim \text{Poisson}(E_i \lambda_i)$ or $C_i \sim \text{Negative Binomial}(E_i \lambda_i, \theta)$

where C_i represents the observed monthly counts, E_i is the exposure variable for month i , and α , β and γ represent the effects of year, month of year and world cup month respectively. λ_i is the mean daily reporting rate of domestic violence, and ϑ is the overdispersion parameter for the negative binomial distribution, with dispersion set to $1 + \vartheta \exp(\eta_i)$. A dispersion parameter ϑ of zero therefore indicates no overdispersion.

For the daily count analysis, a similar model was fitted. Explanatory factors were year (three levels), day of week (dow-seven levels) and a four level factor named 'match' indicating whether the day was the day of an England match with an England loss, the day of an England match with an England win or draw, the day after an England match or a non-match day (all other days). No exposure variable was needed for this second analysis, as the exposure time was the same for all observations. For each analysis, the exponent of the parameter estimates is reported - that is, $\exp(\alpha_j)$, $\exp(\beta_k)$ and $\exp(\eta_i)$ - which can be interpreted as multiplicative

relative risks compared to the relevant baseline category of the appropriate categorical factor.

Exploratory analysis

Table 1 provides numerical information detailing the incidents of domestic violence *reported to the police* in Lancashire on a monthly and annual basis during the FIFA world cup tournament years. The years prior to the tournament are also included for comparative reasons. A visual examination of the table highlights two important points. First, during December 2001, the rate of reported domestic violence more than doubled compared to previous months and then remained at this higher level. This can be explained by well publicised national changes to the UK crime recording protocols that were associated with a national increase in the recording of violent crime (Simmons et al. 2003; Maguire, 2012). Second, from 2002-2010 there is a small but steady increase in the reporting of domestic violence to the police. This occurred whilst the general level of reported crime fell significantly and the British Crime Survey, also revealed a reduction in victim reports of domestic violence - from around 987,000 incidents in 1996, to an estimated 293,000 incidents in 2008 (Roe et al. 2009: 16). Again this finding can easily be explained by the UK policy changes, explained earlier, which encouraged more victims to report domestic abuse to the Police (Lockton & Ward, 1997).

INSERT TABLE 1 HERE

Table 2 provides visual evidence of an increase in reporting domestic violence incidents on the days England played. The average number of incidents reported on the days England played was 79.3, compared with 58.2 on the days they did not play. There also seemed to be some evidence that incidents were often high on the day following an England game, with a mean number of incidents of 70.5.

Secondly, the trend in domestic violence appears to be increasing in severity across the 3 tournaments as during 2002 the average number of incidents reported during

the day of an England game was 64, during 2006 it was 78 incidents and during 2010 it was 99 incidents. Indeed the final day of the tournament for the England team in both 2006 and 2010 exhibited the highest level of reported incidents for the entire month. Also, whenever the England game was played on a weekend this was associated with a higher number of reported domestic violence incidents.

INSERT TABLE 2 HERE

Statistical analysis

a) Monthly count data.

Because of the change in national recording practices the data relating to 2001 was removed leaving five years of data to be analysed (2002, 2005, 2006, 2009 and 2010). A Poisson regression model with the three explanatory factors (described earlier) did not fit the data ($G^2 = 1393.7$ on 43 df, $p < 0.001$), therefore a negative binomial model was fitted.

The estimate for the relative risk for “world cup month” is 0.972, indicating a slightly lower risk in June world cup months once month of year and year are controlled for. However both the effect of the dummy “World cup month” and month of year are not statistically significant. A likelihood ratio test dropping, in turn, world cup month from the main effects model, and then separately dropping month of year from the main effects model, gives likelihood ratio test statistics of 0.04 on 1df ($p = 0.84$) and 11.99 on 11df ($p = 0.34$) respectively. Year, however is significant (53.71 on 4df, $p < 0.001$). The relative risk estimates for 2005, 2006 and 2009 compared to 2002 are 1.221, 1.112 and 1.132, showing between a 10% to 22% increase in risk compared to 2002. Moreover, there is a substantial increase in reporting for 2010, the relative risk being estimated at 1.517, showing a 52% increase over 2002. While year by year changes can be detected, the analysis shows that aggregated monthly data, often used by UK police analysts, may be too coarse to identify day-to-day fluctuations in reported incidents of domestic abuse. As a result, the principal analysis examined daily counts.

b) Daily count data

As with the monthly counts, a Poisson main effects model failed to fit the data ($G^2=163.1$ on 80 df; $p<0.001$) and so a negative binomial model was fitted. The results of this model are shown in Table 3. Likelihood ratio tests of the effects of each of the categorical factors were all highly significant (match 23.24 on 3 df, $p<0.001$; year 70.00 on 2 df, $p<0.001$; dow 58.33 on 6 df, $p<0.001$). The relative risk estimates shown in Table 3 show some interesting results. Examination of the match day variable shows that the relative risk of domestic violence increases by 26% ($RR=1.256$) on a match day when England win or draw; and increases by 38% ($RR=1.380$) if England lose. There was also some evidence of a small increase in relative risk (11%), for the day following match day, compared to a non-match day, with the effect just reaching conventional levels of statistical significance on a Wald test ($RR=1.107, p=0.042$). Day of week effects were also highly significant. Taking a reference day of Thursday, all other days showed a raised relative risk, although only Saturday ($RR=1.435$) and Sunday ($RR=1.506$) showed statistically raised relative risks. Finally the year effect showed a raised risk of 10% for 2006 and a 52% raised risk for 2010, compared to the baseline year of 2002, which is consistent with the monthly data analysis.

INSERT TABLE 3 HERE

Discussion

The aim of this study was to establish whether the FIFA World cup football (soccer) tournament, when viewed remotely via television, could be associated with a rise in domestic abuse incidents. Although there are numerous methodological issues surrounding the accurate identification and collection of incidents, the study provides a statistically significant finding that domestic abuse does increase in England on the days when the English national team played in the foreign tournament. Although incidents *increased* when the team won or drew (26%), this finding intensified when the England team lost and exited the competition (38%).

The study also showed two other interesting trends, one of which was the day after the England game there was an 11% increase in incidents, after controlling for other factors, which was just statistically significant ($p=0.042$). It should be noted some matches were staged during the late afternoon or evening meaning some individuals only returned home during the early hours of the following morning, when the abuse would be committed. Further a tournament trend is apparent with incidents following the England game, increasing in frequency with each new competition (2002: mean 64 incidents; 2006: mean 78 incidents; 2010: mean 99 incidents). There may be a number of reasons for this, such as the heightened awareness encouraging victims to report. However if, as intimated by practitioners, this is a real increase caused through the increased commercialism of the tournament, then this bodes worryingly for the future. Indeed during this research the practitioners spoken to were all aware of the problem. A Social Services representative said, "The tournament goes on for a whole month – this creates all sorts of problems, often aggravated by alcohol, on the smallest of issues such as what programme the TV is tuned into". This opinion was also replicated by a Police representative, who added, "The world cup appears a reason for many to party, however delight and expectation can turn into despair and conflict with the kick of a ball".

These results support previous studies that have generally found an increase of aggression associated with soccer and American Football. It also shows that this aggression can extend to domestic abuse when soccer is watched remotely, a finding previously highlighted with American football (Card & Dahl, 2011). This result complements, rather than contradicts, existing individual and socio-structural explanations relating to domestic or football related violence. Even though the tournament is staged thousands of miles away the live imagery and media commentary is transmitted into homes and social areas, replicating many of the emotions associated with viewing the game in a live environment. These emotional stressors are combined with other situational factors. The tournament is held in the summer and is associated with warmer temperatures, increased alcohol consumption and brings individuals in closer proximity to others. Although it is difficult to say the tournament is a causal factor the prestigious tournament does

concentrate the risk factors into a short and volatile period thereby intensifying the concepts of masculinity, rivalry and aggression. This process also appears cumulative, as it is not the actual world cup tournament that heightens the risk, but specifically when the England team play. Similarly if the England game is staged on a weekend (days traditionally associated with longer and busier licensing hours and associated disorder (Kirby & Hewitt, 2011), then incidents are likely to increase further. Further if the England team lose and are knocked out of the tournament then this is associated with further violence.

These findings are important for the prevention of domestic abuse. Understanding the underlying cause of a crime can lead to the most appropriate intervention to reduce or remove it. If increased domestic abuse can be associated with a specific, predictable and short-term event, such as the world cup tournament, then interventions can be tailored to reduce the misery of abused partners as well as the children and family members in proximity to it (Crisp and Stanko, 2001).

This raises the value of an approach which in recent years been aligned with the term 'situational crime prevention'. It proposes that research should "pay much less attention to the causes of crime and much more on *how* crime is committed and, consequently, how it might be prevented" (Clarke, 2004, cited in Newburn, 2007: 294). Situational crime prevention encompasses numerous theories, perhaps the most notable being Rational Choice Theory (mentioned earlier), which focuses upon how the situation can create the opportunity for crime or disorder to occur (Felson, 2002). In this way the approach argues that "rather than focusing on distant causes such as poverty and social inequality- which have generally proved rather resistant to change- criminologists should look more to the immediate matters that can be manipulated and which might have some practical benefit" (Clarke, 2004, *ibid*). In this context academics and community safety practitioners should concentrate on establishing how the situation can be changed to reduce the level of domestic violence. Consideration of appropriate and effective interventions requires more space than this current study is able to provide, however Clarke (2004) assists by providing a framework based upon 'Rational Choice Theory'. Clarke argues by

concentrating on interventions that: increase the effort and risk for the offender; reduce the rewards obtained; or reduce the provocation or excuse the offender says precipitates the offence, then the potential offender can be dissuaded from committing the criminal action. Such an approach enables all those involved in the situation to be involved in the solution. For example Rees & Schnepel (2009) have shown diminished alcohol consumption can reduce violence following American football matches. Further, it could be that professional players and managers involved in the tournament can publicise their contempt of domestic violence, thereby distancing the aggression on the pitch from the domestic environment. Similarly domestic violence workers can attempt to reduce critical flashpoints occurring, or maximise their resources surrounding national games to ensure positive action is provided.

This study is limited in size, however due to the global explosion of televised soccer, it potentially has significant implications. Clearly it is important to ascertain whether this finding is replicated across the UK or other countries. Similarly further research is required to distinguish the situational factors associated with this finding, an approach unavailable to this study due to the limitations of the data. Specifically it would be useful to understand: where and when the violence occurred, the precipitating factors prior to it occurring; the level of violence; consumption of drugs or alcohol; and a comparison between the expected and final result. As the FIFA world cup tournament is only one of numerous high profile football competitions staged across many continents the potential for associated incidents of domestic abuse is significant. Understanding how these events generate such abuse is critical to reducing them.

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Table 1. The monthly number of domestic violence incidents reported to the Lancashire Constabulary.

	Year					
	2001	2002	2005	2006	2009	2010
Month						
January	481	1503	1837	1683	1312	2234
February	477	1384	1556	1477	1233	1978
March	688	1516	1773	1518	1290	2142
April	755	1359	1853	1615	1332	2154
May	749	1439	1985	1638	1374	2342
June	686	1596	1838	1682	1376	2328
July	784	1437	1998	1935	1222	2345
August	636	1483	1743	1727	2513	2360
September	562	1370	1701	1592	2105	2060
October	561	1315	1742	1476	2141	2243
November	645	1384	1602	1497	2026	2231
December	1611	1800	1868	1708	2198	2249
TOTAL	8635	17586	21496	19548	20122	26653

Note. World cup months are in bold.

Table 2: Daily number of reported domestic violence incidents during June 2002, 2006 and 2010. Dates of the England games are highlighted in bold. Lost matches are in *bold italic*.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
June 2002 (1 st -30 th June)							
Week 1						75	78
Week 2	75	67	58	41	71	61	51
Week 3	47	41	43	42	33	80	84
Week 4	35	38	46	42	49	61	65
Week 5	30	38	27	43	44	52	79
Average	46.7	46.0	43.7	42	38.5	62.3	69.7

June/July 2006 (1 st June-2 nd July)							
Week 1				41	38	83	62
Week 2	43	54	44	47	50	99	79
Week 3	58	48	44	57	49	72	71
Week 4	52	56	47	39	47	59	84
Week 5	54	51	49	46	59	100	85
Average	51.7	51.0	46.0	43.3	48.6	71.3	74.2

June 2010 (1 st June-30 th June)							
Week 1		59	53	67	73	88	81
Week 2	79	65	46	72	62	79	86
Week 3	63	68	61	61	65	87	103
Week 4	83	64	114	82	95	98	140
Week 5	78	78	78				
Average	75.7	66.8	59.5	70.5	76.7	91.0	90.0

*The incidents for days with England games are excluded from the daily averages

Table 3. Negative binomial model for daily domestic violence incidents: Relative risks, confidence intervals and p-values..

Parameter		Relative risk	95% Confidence. Interval	p-value
Year	2002	1.000		
	2006	* 1.104	(1.013 , 1.206)	0.025
	2010	*** 1.520	(1.393 , 1.655)	<0.001
Type of day	Non-match day	1.000		
	Match day England win or draw	*** 1.256	(1.128, 1.411)	<0.001
	Match day England lose	** 1.382	(1.150, 1.661)	0.001
	Day after England match day	*1.107	(1.004, 1.228)	0.042
Day of week	Thursday	1.000		
	Friday	1.048	(0.914 , 1.201)	0.504
	Saturday	*** 1.435	(1.259, 1.634)	<0.001
	Sunday	*** 1.506	(1.323, 1.715)	<0.001
	Monday	1.112	(0.969, 1.277)	0.130
	Tuesday	1.067	(0.930, 1.223)	0.355
	Wednesday	1.004	(0.875, 1.151)	0.956
	Theta	*** 0.0124	(0.0064, 0.0239)	<0.001

Note: Significance: *p<0.05, **p<0.01, ***p<0.001 . P-values are based on Wald tests apart from that for theta, which is based on a likelihood ratio test.