

Crime in New Zealand: 1996–2005



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Preface

The impact of crime on public safety is an issue of enduring interest and concern. Crime rates attest not only to the safety of our persons and our property but also to the overall health of our society and to the effectiveness of the institutions that are dedicated to crime prevention and the administration of justice.

Crime in New Zealand: 1996–2005 provides a descriptive overview of trends in recorded crime in New Zealand. The report examines how the total rate of offending and the proportion of recorded offences that are resolved have changed since 1970. The report also describes changes in offence rates for particular types of crime between 1996 and 2005.

Building on previous crime trend reports produced by Statistics New Zealand, this report complements both the New Zealand Police annual crime statistics reports and the Ministry of Justice's annual reports on conviction and sentencing of offenders.

Although it is commonly accepted that the actual number of crimes committed is higher than the number reported to the police systems, the data recorded by the New Zealand Police remains the key indicator of trends in reported crime in New Zealand.

The report will be of interest to policy makers, those in the justice sector, the non-government sector and the general public.

I would like to thank Nicola Bowman, Barb Lash and other members of the Justice Statistics Team for the work they have done in the preparation of this publication.

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Executive summary

In 2005, more than 407,000 offences were recorded by the New Zealand Police.

Recorded crime doubled between 1970 and 2000, with the offence rate peaking at 1,322 per 10,000 population in 1992. However, this was down to 994 per 10,000 population in 2005.

Police resolved 43 percent of all offences recorded in 2005. The resolution rate has increased from a low of 30 percent in 1991.

The largest category of recorded offences was dishonesty, accounting for more than half of all recorded crime in 2005. Drugs and antisocial offences was the next largest category, followed by violent offences, property damage, property abuse, administrative and sexual offences.

The total dishonesty offence rate declined over the 10-year period 1996–2005 (831 per 10,000 population in 1996; 562 per 10,000 population in 2005). Dishonesty offences were dominated by theft offences. The rate of theft was twice that of the next largest class, burglary. One in five dishonesty offences were resolved.

The majority of drug offences (90 percent in 2005) were cannabis related. They were recorded at a rate three times that for non-cannabis drugs. The rate of non-cannabis drugs offences, however, has been increasing – more than doubling from four per 10,000 population in 1996 to 10 per 10,000 population in 2005. The overall rate of antisocial offences has remained stable.

There was a small increase in the offence rate for violent crime between 1996 and 2005. The most common violent offences were serious assaults, minor assaults, and intimidation and threats.

Administrative offences constituted less than 3 percent of all recorded crime in 2005. Resolution rates for this category were high – above 80 percent in each of the four classes.

Sexual offences accounted for less than 1 percent of all recorded crime, and in recent years the number of sexual offences recorded by the Police has decreased.

Introduction

Crime is a topic of great public interest and concern. For many people, the concern emerges from a perception that rising levels of crime represent an increased threat to their safety and property. Consequently, there is much public discussion about the factors that contribute to crime and about strategies for reducing the crime rate.

It is important that public discussion and debate be informed by an understanding of the level of crime, trends over time, the factors that contribute to crime patterns and the problems involved in accurately measuring crime. A careful analysis of official police statistics may contribute to this discussion and debate by providing an indication of the amount and types of recorded crime occurring in our society. It is important to note, however, that levels of reporting, and therefore the levels of recorded crime, may vary by the type of crime and over time. Also influencing these statistics are the patterns of police activity and public perception of crime. There are also many crimes excluded from official police data, as they are dealt with by other authorities, such as New Zealand Customs or the Ministry of Fisheries. For more information on crimes excluded from official police data see Appendix 3.

There are also important differences between ‘actual crime’ and ‘measured or recorded crime’. Many crimes are not detected, others are detected and not reported, and others are reported and not officially recorded. Crime survey data, such as the New Zealand National Survey of Crime Victims, undertaken in 1996 (Young et al. 1997) and 2001 (Morris & Reilly 2003), and the New Zealand Crime and Safety Survey (NZCASS) 2006 (Mayhew & Reilly forthcoming), show that a proportion of crime experienced by the population never comes to the awareness of the Police and therefore is not counted in official police statistics. For more information on crime surveys see Appendix 3.

Purpose of the report

The purpose of this report is to provide a more extensive commentary on crime statistics to complement the information available on the Statistics New Zealand and New Zealand Police websites and the information provided by crime and victimisation surveys. The report explores trends in crime, reported to or discovered by the New Zealand Police, over a 10-year period from 1996 to 2005, and identifies possible reasons for the trends. This covers the period for which electronic data is readily available from the police data warehouse.

Statistics NZ has previously published reports on crime in New Zealand (Statistics New Zealand 1996 and 2001), which also looked at trends in recorded crime, and reasons for those trends. This report continues that series of reports.

Analysis of crime can be undertaken in a number of ways. Analysis may be based on the movement of individuals through the justice system, by looking at crimes detected by or reported to the Police, or by crimes reported by victims through crime victimisation surveys. These models are complementary, and each makes a contribution to understanding crime and criminal behaviour. The choice of the data used in the analysis depends on the purpose of the analysis. The purpose of this report

is to monitor police-recorded crime trends, and the data used is population based, as opposed to records of individuals, whether perpetrators or victims of crime.

Analysis presented

Rates of recorded offences per 10,000 total estimated resident population are presented. This approach treats the total population as being likely to commit crime, and does not take account of the fact that some types of crime are more likely to be committed by specific population subgroups. It also does not allow for the fact that some individuals commit multiple offences during a reference period.

Possible explanations for the trends in crime, which may compound or mask the underlying crime trend, include:

- changes in the demographic structure of the population that is most likely to offend (eg young males)
- legislative changes (eg creation of new offences, repeal of offences, change of offences to infringement offences)
- changes in recording practice (eg creation of new offence codes)
- changes in police practice (eg changes in the level of enforcement of liquor bans)
- changes in society's attitude to certain types of crime.

Where possible, these explanations are discussed in this report.

Changes in police practice are difficult to quantify, but particularly affect crime discovered by the Police rather than crime reported to the Police. This factor is included in the above list, as it has been identified as influencing trends (Lash 2005, p 11) and may be discussed in the report as being a possible influence on trends for appropriate types of crime. However, it will not be possible to identify the exact effect of this factor on the trends.

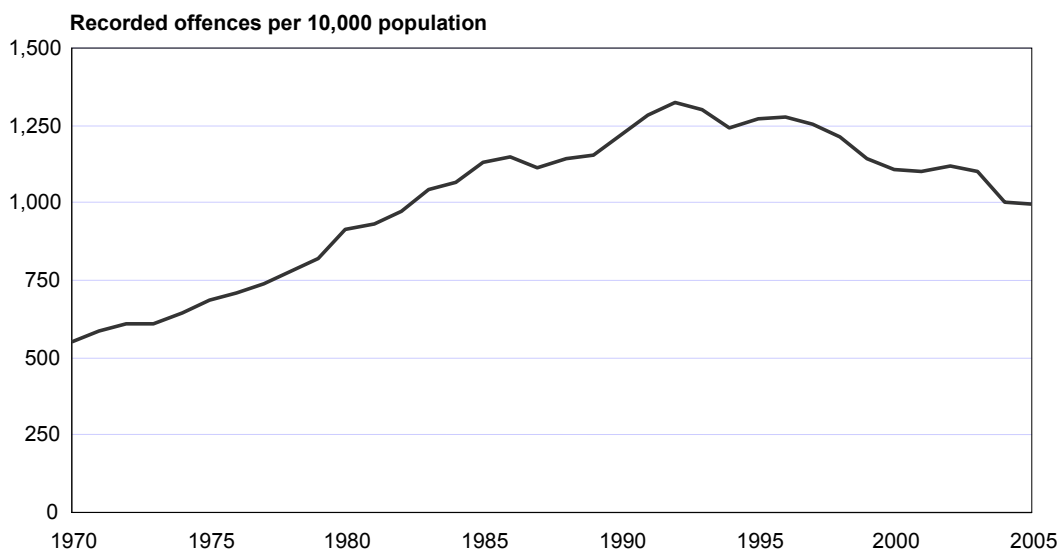
It is also difficult to quantify and identify changes in societal attitudes that affect crime rates. A recent example is attitudes to domestic violence. Domestic violence is now more likely to be reported to the Police and actioned by them than was the case 20 years ago (eg the number of convictions for "male assaults female", an indicator of domestic violence, doubled in the mid-1990s (Spier 2000, p 15)), although it is difficult to quantify this change exactly, or discover exactly when it occurred.

The other explanation for changes in crime trends is that the underlying level of offending has changed.

Overall offence rate

In 2005, there were more than 407,000 offences recorded by the New Zealand Police, a recorded offence rate of 994.2 per 10,000 population. From the 1950s, the recorded offence rate has increased steadily, peaking in 1992 at 1,321.8 per 10,000 population (see Figure 1). At this time, the offence rate was seven times greater than the rate in 1950. However, the overall recorded crime rate in New Zealand has shown a decreasing trend since 1992, with the 2005 rate being approximately the same as the 1982 rate. Throughout the report, Appendix 1 can be referred to for more detailed statistical tables.

Figure 1: Rate of Recorded Offences
1970–2005



Many factors influence the crime rate. These factors may relate to real changes in the volume of crime, to changes in reporting and recording practices, or to a combination of the two.

Reasons for changes in the volume of crime may include increased urbanisation and population density, increased opportunities for crime in a consumer society (a wealthier society may mean there is more property to steal), changes in income inequalities and changes in the demographic structure of the population (Triggs 1997).

Other factors not directly related to the volume of crime but likely to influence reporting and recording practices include:

- changes in social attitudes (ie changing social attitudes to domestic violence mean that it is more likely to be officially recorded)
- changes in police practice and levels of resourcing (ie police targeting of particular types of offences mean that more are recorded, but not necessarily that more are occurring, eg drugs offences or liquor offences)
- changes in the recording practices of the Police
- legislative changes and changes in the definition of offences could mean that new offences have been created (increasing the volume of crime), or that what

was previously an offence is no longer so (decreasing the volume of crime) (eg lowering the purchase age for alcohol means that purchasing alcohol between the ages of 18 and 19 years is no longer an offence).

Where possible, these factors will be identified and discussed in the report.

Offence categories

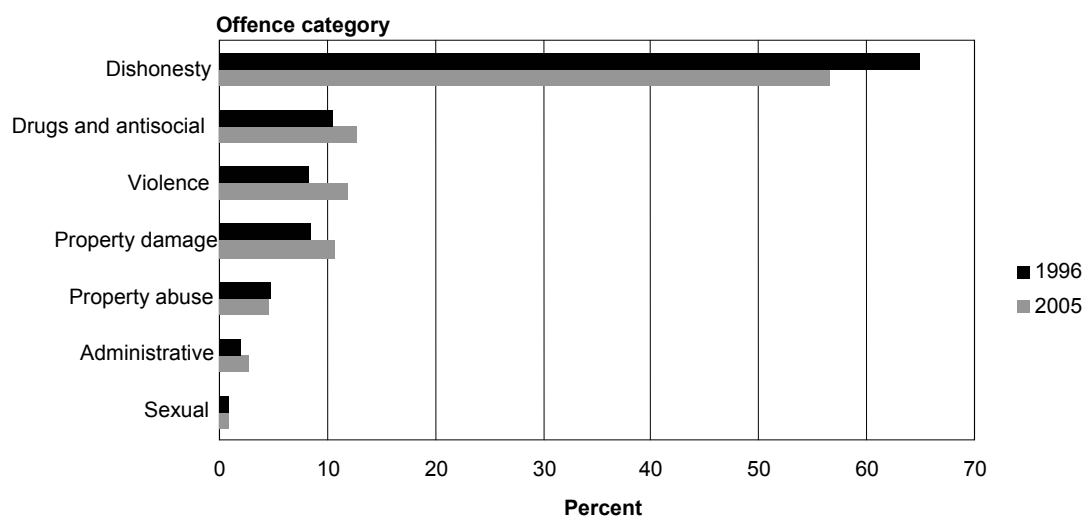
The New Zealand Police classify offences as one of seven offence categories (see Appendix 5 for more detail). Listed in order of volume, the categories are:

- dishonesty
- drugs and antisocial
- violent
- property damage
- property abuse
- administrative
- sexual.

The largest category in 2005, accounting for 56.7 percent of recorded crime, was dishonesty offences (see Figure 2). The other offence categories, in order of volume, were drugs and antisocial (12.7 percent of all recorded offences in 2005), violent offences (11.9 percent), property damage (10.7 percent), property abuse (4.6 percent), administrative (2.8 percent) and sexual offences (less than 1 percent).

Driven by the declining rate of dishonesty offences (the dishonesty offence rate declined by 32 percent, from 831 per 10,000 population to 562 per 10,000 population), the proportion of all offences categorised as dishonesty offences declined from 65 percent to 57 percent between 1996 and 2005. This caused a number of other categories (violent offences, drugs and antisocial offences, property damage and administrative offences) to increase their share of total recorded offences.

Figure 2: Proportion of Recorded Offences
By offence category
1996 and 2005



Overall resolution rate

Recorded offences are resolved when one or more alleged offender(s) are identified and a decision is made on what action to take against the offender. Not all resolutions involve proceeding against the identified offender(s). Resolutions may also be recorded following a warning or 'talking to' by the Police, or where the Police identify the offender but are unable to proceed, eg if the offender has died.

Not all offences are resolved, and a number of factors influence the resolution rate, for example:

- the time it takes to investigate an offence
- the type of offence
- offences reported to the Police and offences discovered by the Police
- changes in the number of police
- changes in police practice.

Each of these factors is discussed below. Factors identified as influencing particular types of offences will be included in the commentary on resolution rates for that type of offence.

The time it takes to investigate an offence influences the resolution rate. Resolved offences are counted in official statistics for a given year if the resolution is recorded up to 14 days after the end of the year (the official statistical dataset is extracted from the operational database 14 days after the end of the year). In other words, offences resolved 15 or more days after the end of a statistical year are not counted as resolved in official statistics. Although this counting rule may result in an undercount of resolutions, it is assumed that the undercount will be consistent from year to year. This assumption is based on two reasons: first, the rule has been consistent for many years; and, second, it is assumed that the distribution of the time it takes to resolve the same type of offence will not vary from year to year. Many offences are resolved within a short period of time of the offence occurring; however, others take more time to resolve. The counting rule will have a marked impact of undercounting resolutions for types of offences that often take longer to resolve. For example, homicides often involve long and in-depth investigations before the offence can be resolved.

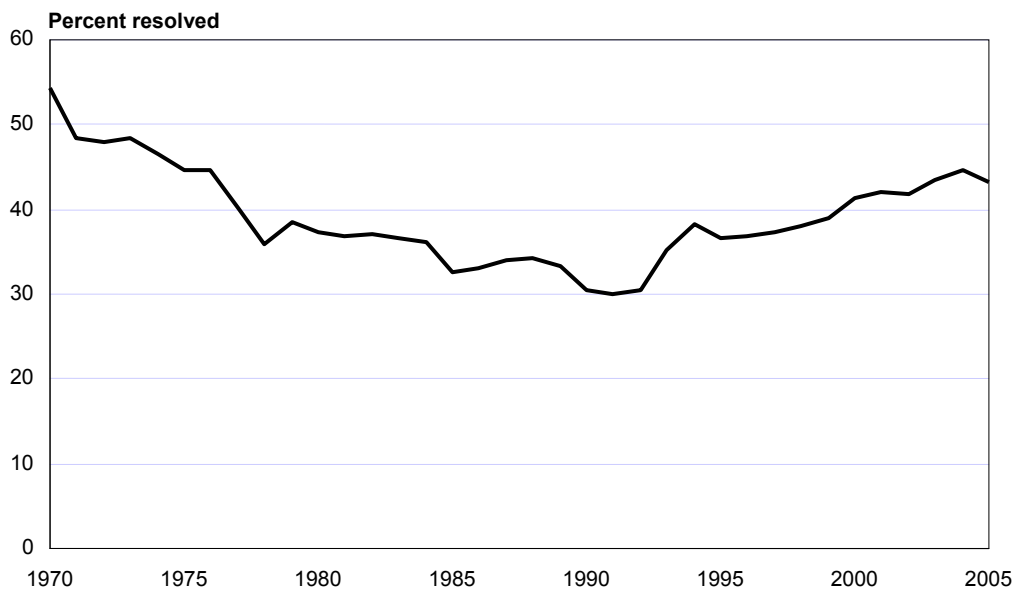
Some offences are recorded when they are reported to the Police (eg a home owner might report a burglary); other offences are discovered by the Police. Offences discovered by the Police would often not have otherwise been reported. Some offences are discovered because the Police have decided to concentrate on a particular type of offence (see the discussion below on the influence of changes in police practice). For example, drugs offences are usually discovered by the Police rather than reported to them. Offences usually reported to the Police and offences usually discovered by them will have different resolution rates. Offences discovered by the Police will often be resolved because the offender is identified at the time of discovery.

Changes in the number of police may influence the resolution rate, with an increase in the number of police resulting in an increase in the resolution rate.

Changes in police practice may influence the resolution rate in a variety of ways. For example, increased concentration on certain types of offences may lead to increased resolution rates for those offences. It is not always possible to identify changes in police practice that have influenced the resolution rate.

The proportion of recorded offences resolved has changed over time. Slightly more than half of all offences were resolved in 1970 (see Figure 3). In 1991, the resolution rate had declined to a low of 29.9 percent. However, the proportion of recorded offences resolved has increased steadily since then, to 43.3 percent in 2005.

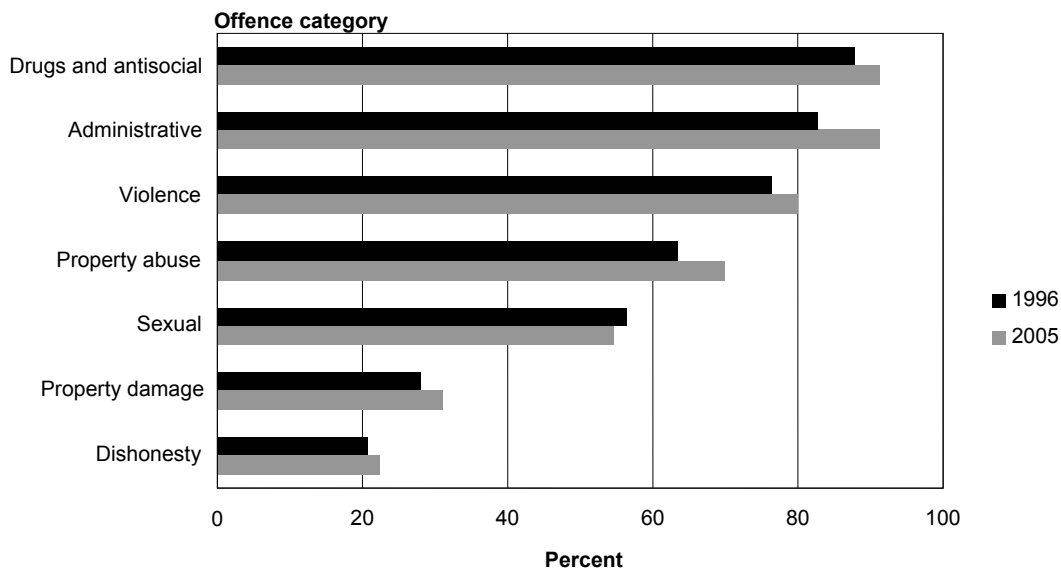
Figure 3: Proportion of all Recorded Offences Resolved
1970–2005



Resolution rates vary widely between offence categories (see Figure 4). The highest resolution rates are for administrative, and drugs and antisocial offences. Administrative offences, such as failure to answer bail; breaches of miscellaneous statutes, such as the Motor Vehicle Dealers Act 1975 (replaced by Motor Vehicle Sales Act 2003) and the Fair Trading Act 1986; births, deaths and marriages offences; and immigration offences, typically involve crimes where the perpetrator is known. Also, these types of ‘victimless’ crimes are often detected by the Police rather than reported to them. The resolution rate for both administrative, and drugs and antisocial categories rose in the 10-year period 1996–2005. Drugs and antisocial offences have high resolution rates because the category includes types of offences discovered by the Police.

Violent crime ranked third in resolution rates, reflecting the fact that in crimes against the person the offender is often known by the victim. The largest offence category, dishonesty offences, recorded the lowest resolution rate. Dishonesty offences have a low resolution rate because the category includes offences like burglary, which are often reported to the Police (for insurance purposes), but it can be difficult to find the offender.

Figure 4: Proportion of Recorded Offences Resolved
By offence category
 1996 and 2005



Dishonesty offences

Dishonesty offences is by far the largest category of offences, accounting for 57 percent of all recorded crime in 2005. Between 1996 and 2005, the total dishonesty offence rate declined from 830.8 per 10,000 population to 562.4 per 10,000 population. Possible factors influencing this rate include changes in police numbers and/or police practice; the deterrent effect of increased security measures by householders; publicity campaigns about home security; changing social factors, such as unemployment; and a decline in the number of people in the high-crime groups, such as the younger age groups (Statistics New Zealand 1996a p 12).

Research by Triggs (1997) identified two main influences on dishonesty offending: first, the level of business confidence; and, second, the level of female labour force participation. The research noted that in New Zealand the growth rate of dishonesty offences shows a tendency to decrease when economic indicators are positive. In general, business confidence was positive during the late 1990s, falling into a negative trend after 2002 (The National Bank of New Zealand 2006). Triggs' analysis of the female workforce found that growth in female employment had a positive association with growth in dishonesty offences. Female labour force participation rates steadily increased over the 10-year period (Statistics New Zealand, Household Labour Force Survey). In addition, theft and possibly vehicle conversion and fraud may be influenced by the deterrent effect of resolution or conviction rates (Triggs 1997).

The dishonesty category includes the following classes:

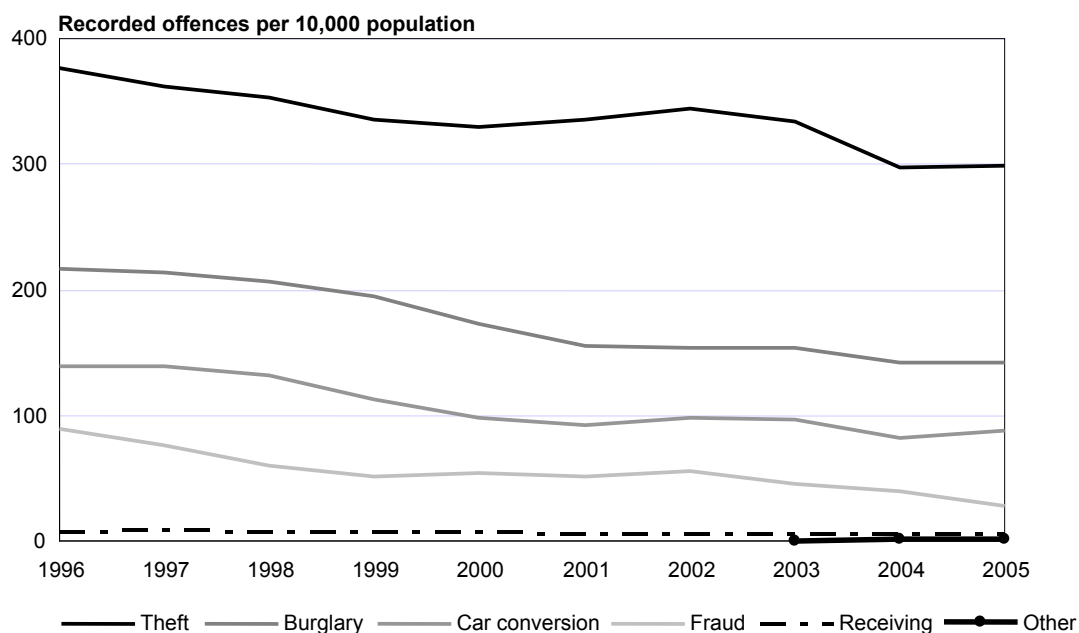
- theft
- burglary
- car conversion
- fraud
- receiving
- other (computer crime).

Burglary and theft are the two largest classes in this category (see Figure 5). Burglary occurs when someone enters a building, ship or enclosed space, without authority, with the intent to commit a crime. The legal definition of burglary changed between 2001 and 2006. Burglary no longer requires forced entry, so thefts from an ‘enclosed space’ (such as yards) now count as burglary. In contrast, theft is the act of taking the property of others without the consent of the owner.

The rate of theft in 2005 (298.4 per 10,000 population) was twice that of the next largest class, burglary (141.8 per 10,000 population). The two largest contributors to the theft class in 2005 were theft from a vehicle and shoplifting. Burglaries, and theft of and from cars are current government crime-reduction priority strategy areas (<http://www.justice.govt.nz/cpu/crime-reduction-strategy>) [accessed 15 September 2006]. In 2005, the Police and the Ministry of Justice completed a programme of evaluation of the effectiveness of preventing burglary. The focus and prevention programme (implemented through the strategies) may have contributed to the declining burglary rate.

Figure 5: Rate of Recorded Dishonesty Offences

By class
1996–2005



In 2005, one in five (22.4 percent) of the total recorded dishonesty offences were resolved. The class with the highest resolution rate was receiving (96.8 percent of

offences resolved). Receiving occurs when someone knowingly takes possession of property that is stolen or obtained by any other crime. The rate is high because it is unusual for a receiving offence to be identified and recorded unless an offender is found in possession of stolen goods. Therefore, it is typically a discovered crime rather than a reported crime (Statistics New Zealand 2001). For the other dishonesty classes, most offences were not resolved. Theft, the largest class of dishonesty offences, had a resolution rate of 21.6 percent. The other dishonesty classes had resolution rates ranging from 16.2 percent (burglary) to 48.7 percent (fraud). This may be because of the nature of these crimes, which are typically reported to the Police after the crime has occurred and with unidentified culprits.

Drugs and antisocial offences

The combined drugs and antisocial offences category was the second largest crime category in 2005, accounting for 12.7 percent of all recorded offences. This was a rise in the share of all offences, from 10.5 percent in 1996. There were around 51,800 recorded drugs and antisocial offences in 2005. The resolution rate for the drugs and antisocial category was 91.4 percent in 2005.

Although the New Zealand Police combine drugs and antisocial offences to form a single offence category, statistics presented in this section are divided into two parts:

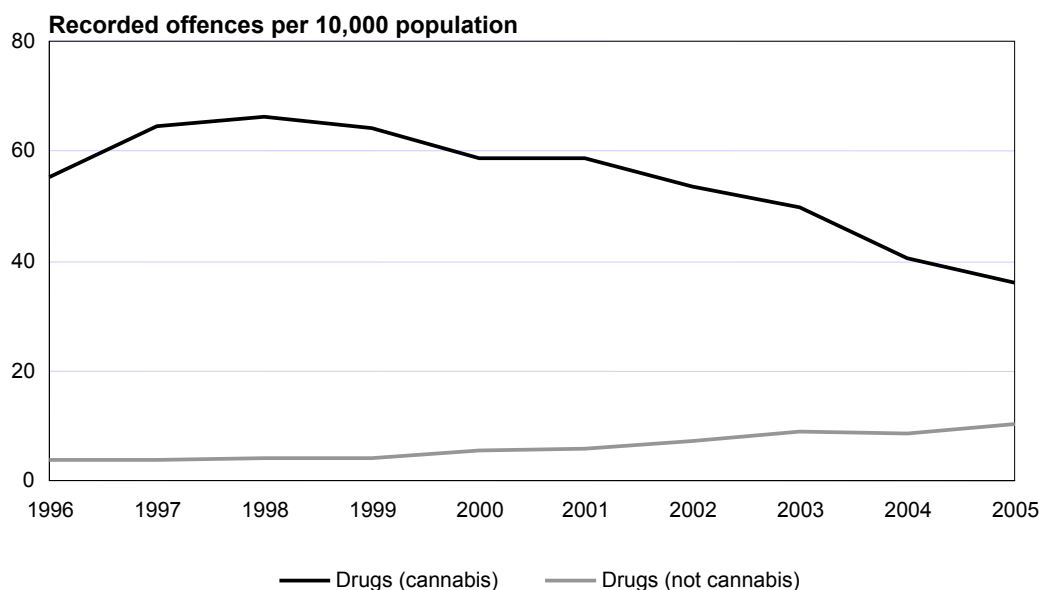
1. Drugs offences – presented firstly as cannabis-related offences and non-cannabis offences. Statistics are also presented in terms of six types of drug use (use cannabis, deal in cannabis, other cannabis-related offences, use other drugs, deal in other drugs and other drug-related offences).
2. Antisocial offences – presented as the following five classes: disorder, family, gaming, vagrancy and Sale of Liquor Act 1989 offences.

Drugs offences

In 2005, there were a total of 16,364 recorded drug-related offences. The vast majority of these (90 percent) were cannabis offences. Cannabis offences were recorded at a rate of 35.9 per 10,000 population, more than three times the rate of non-cannabis offences (10.3 per 10,000 population).

Figure 6 shows that over the period 1996–2005 the distribution of cannabis and non-cannabis drugs offences changed. The rate of cannabis-related offences steadily decreased from the late 1990s. At the same time, the rate of non-cannabis drugs offences increased – more than doubling from 3.8 per 10,000 population in 1996 (10.3 in 2005). The major contributors to the growing non-cannabis-related drugs offences were possession of methamphetamine and/or amphetamine and their utensils for use, making false statements relating to the misuse of non-cannabis drug use, wilfully obstructing/resisting or deceiving a police officer, and importing or exporting other drugs. The New Zealand Police (2005) noted a switch in the drug market, from cannabis to methamphetamine and other drugs.

Figure 6: Rate of Recorded Drugs Offences
By cannabis and non-cannabis
 1996–2005



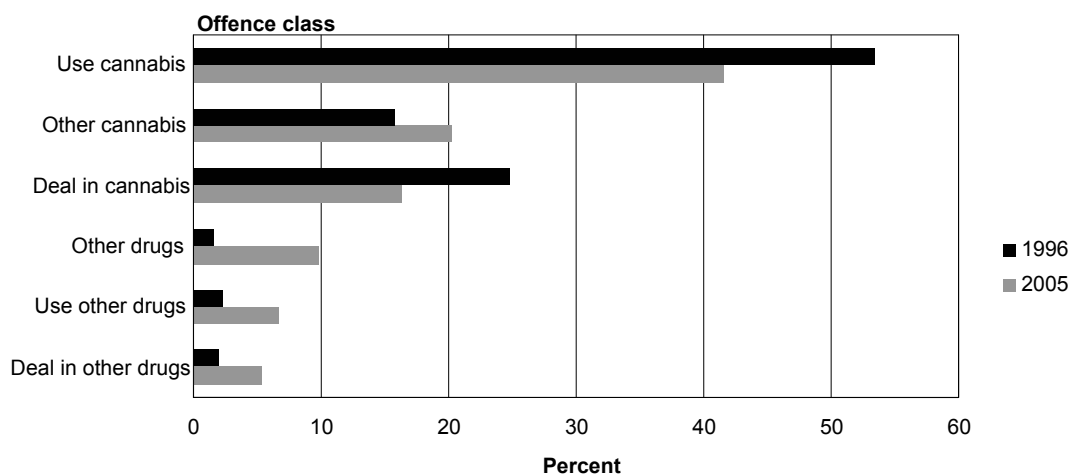
The resolution rates for drug-related offences were high. As a ‘victimless’ crime, drug-related offences are more likely to be discovered by the Police than reported to them. In 2005, 94.8 percent of cannabis-related offences and 87.3 percent of non-cannabis-related offences were resolved. There was also a reported 8 percent increase in police time spent on drug enforcement in recent years (New Zealand Police 2006).

Drug-related offences can also be analysed by the type of offence that occurred. Six classes are possible (three each for cannabis and other drugs – see Figure 7). This classification is used by the Ministry of Justice in its annual reporting of conviction and sentencing. The three classes are:

- ‘use’ – incorporating the use of drugs and possession, other than for supply
- ‘dealing’ – includes offences for importing, exporting, producing, manufacturing, supplying, administering, selling, cultivating or possessing for supply
- ‘other’ – these drugs offences relate primarily to the possession of pipes or other drug-related utensils for use, or provision of premises to produce, cultivate or supply drugs.

In 2005, ‘use of cannabis’ accounted for the greatest proportion of drug-related offences (53.5 percent). However, there were substantial changes in the distribution of drugs offences by type of use between 1996 and 2005. For example, use of cannabis declined by 12 percentage points over the period, although it remained the largest group. ‘Dealing in cannabis’ fell by 8 percentage points. Dealing in other drugs increased by 2.5 percentage points, use of other drugs increased by 4 percentage points, and other non-cannabis drugs offences increased by 8 percentage points. These patterns are similar to those reported for convictions for drugs offences (Lash 2006) with ‘use and dealing in cannabis’ declining and the other groups increasing over the 10 years.

Figure 7: Proportion of Total Recorded Drugs Offences
By type of use
 1996 and 2005



Antisocial offences

There were 11,250 antisocial offences recorded in 2005. The rate of antisocial offences in 2005 was 80.3 per 10,000 population compared with 76.0 per 10,000 population in 1996 (see Figure 8). Antisocial offences include those classed as:

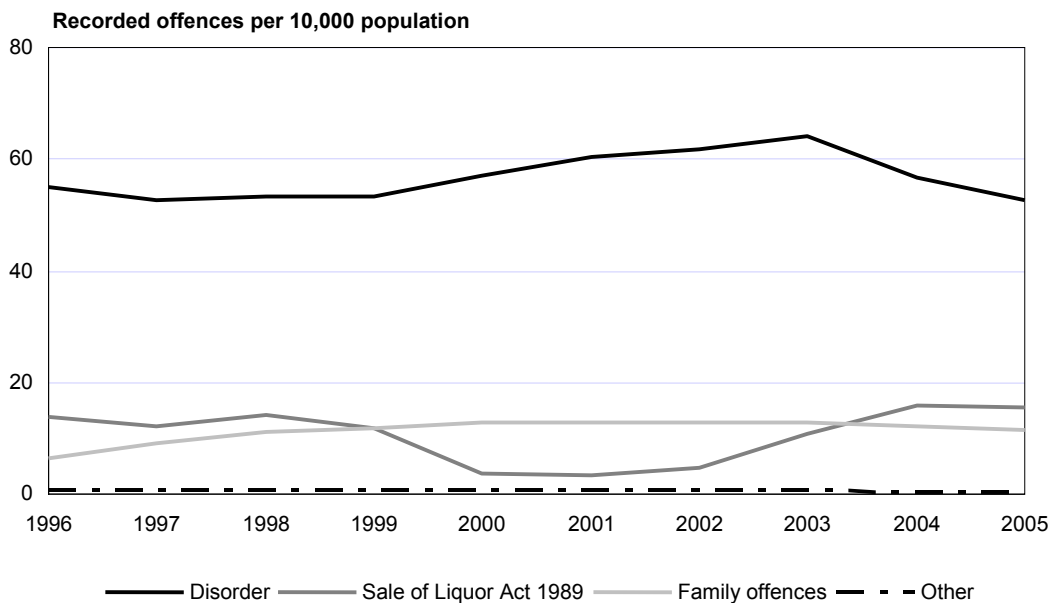
- disorder (such as obstructing, hindering or resisting the Police, fighting in public, offensive language, carrying offensive weapons and drunkenness)
- Sale of Liquor Act 1989
- family offences (such as child abuse, abandonment, offences against the Family Proceedings Act 1980 and breaches of the Domestic Violence Act 1995)
- other (gaming, vagrancy).

Disorder offences was the largest class of antisocial offences, accounting for 65.9 percent of all antisocial offences in 2005. This is a decrease from 1996, when this class accounted for 72.4 percent of antisocial offences.

The decline in Sale of Liquor Act 1989 offences recorded after 1999 is related to amendments to the Sale of Liquor Act 1989 and to section 38 of the Summary Offences Act 1981 that came into force on 1 December 1999 (Lash 2006). These amendments changed the offences of purchasing liquor by minors, minors being found in restricted or supervised areas, and minors drinking liquor in a public place to infringement offences, whereby either the person may be prosecuted through the court system or an infringement notice may be issued. (Infringement notices are not counted in these statistics.) The amendments also lowered the legal purchase age of alcohol from 20 to 18 years. The increase in liquor-related offences in 2003 and 2004 was mostly due to the inclusion of a large number of offences in these years for breaches of local liquor bans. Prior to a new offence code being introduced in April 2003, these offences were included in the category of other miscellaneous offences, and the exact number of such offences could not be identified.

Figure 8: Rate of Recorded Antisocial Offences

By class
1996–2005



The resolution rate for all classes of antisocial offences was above 80 percent in 2005. The resolution rate for disorder was 89.0 percent, an increase of 6 percentage points from 1995, while the resolution rate for family offences was 88.0 percent, an increase of 15 percentage points. These types of offences are typically discovered by the Police rather than reported to them.

Violent offences

Violent crime is a matter of particular concern to the public. It accounts for less than 12 percent of all recorded offences in 2005; however, it traditionally receives the most public concern and attention in the media. Although the media attention given to violent crime may seem out of proportion in terms of its volume contribution to overall recorded crime levels, the effect of violent crime on the victims and on the general public's perception of community safety contributes to its high profile.

Violent crime is presented in six classes:

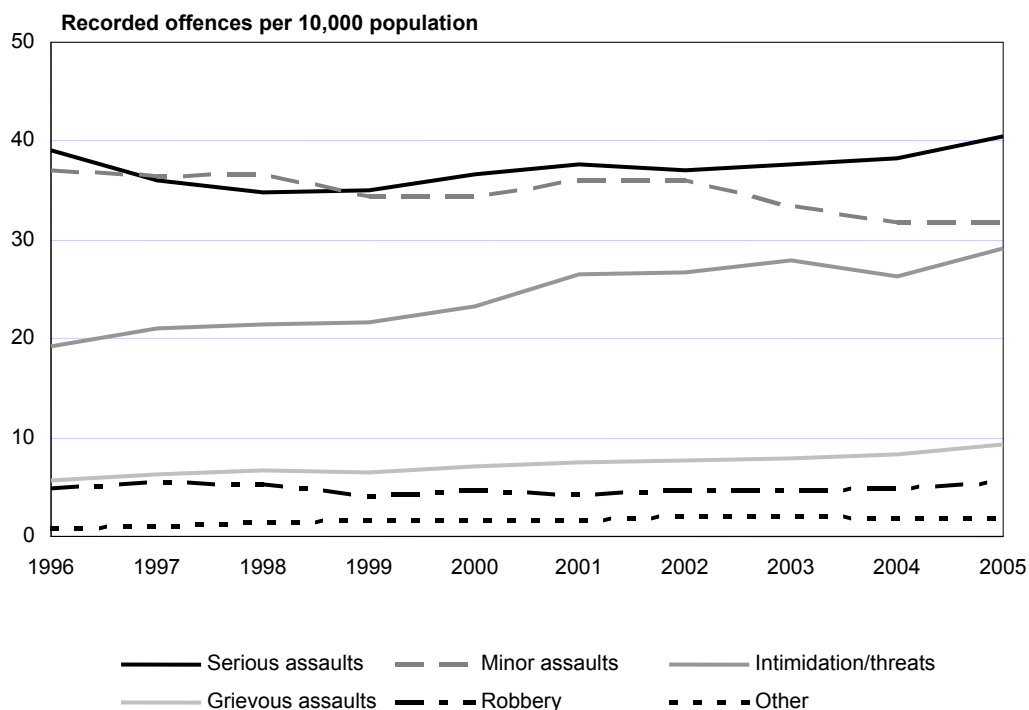
- serious assaults – mostly common assault under the Crimes Act 1961, but also includes assault with intent to injure, injuring by unlawful act and aggravated assault
- minor assaults
- intimidation/threats
- grievous assaults – mostly assault with a weapon, wounding with intent and injuring with intent, but also includes aggravated wounding or injury, disabling, dangerous acts with intent, acid throwing and poisoning with intent to cause grievous bodily harm
- robbery
- other (includes group assemblies, homicide, kidnapping and abduction).

In 2005, there were 48,337 recorded violent offences, the third largest category of offences. Violent offences were recorded at a rate of 118.0 per 10,000 population in 2005, up from 106.8 per 10,000 population in 1996. Over the 10-year period 1996–2005, the proportion of all offences categorised as violent offences increased steadily, rising from 8.3 percent of all offences to 11.9 percent at the end of the period. However, it is important to consider the composition of this category, incorporating extreme violence, such as homicide, and bottom-end violence, such as threats to steal and threats to act. In reality, the increase in violent offences is virtually solely attributable to an increase in threats and intimidation.

Possible reasons for the increase in violent crime include changes in propensity to report these types of crime (eg the proliferation of cellphones makes real-time reporting easy); changes in law; changes in police policies or practice; targeting offending that for a variety of reasons was not reported in the past, such as domestic violence; and media interest.

The most common violent offences are serious assaults, minor assaults, and intimidation and threats. As Figure 9 shows, the serious assaults rate fluctuated between 34 and 40.5 per 10,000 population between 1996 and 2005. The offence rate for minor assaults declined from 37.1 per 10,000 population in 1996 to 31.8 per 10,000 population in 2005. The rate of intimidation and threats grew 37 percent, from 19.2 per 10,000 population to 24.7 per 10,000 population. Recorded grievous assaults, which made up only 8 percent of all violent offences in 2005, increased by 50 percent in the 10-year period. Other violent offences (group assemblies, homicide, kidnapping and abduction) were recorded by the Police at a rate of 1.8 per 10,000 population in 2005.

Figure 9: Rate of Recorded Violent Offences
By class
1996–2005

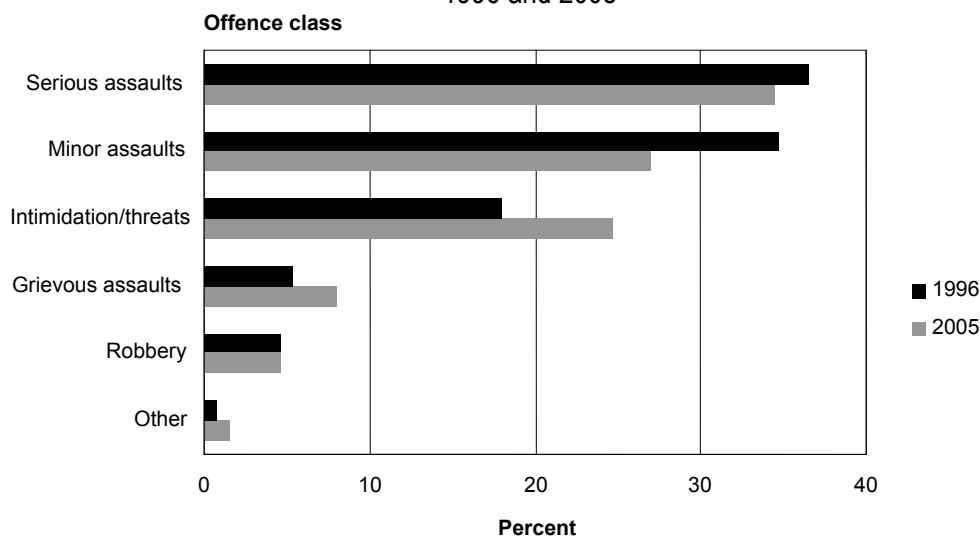


There have been changes in the composition of violent offences since 1996. A number of classes have increased their share of all violent offences, while others have decreased (see Figure 10). Intimidation and threats, grievous assaults and other (includes homicide, kidnapping and abduction, and group assemblies) have all increased their share of total violent crime. An increase in intimidation and threats drove the overall rise in violent crime over the decade, increasing from 18 percent of all violent offences in 1996 to 24.7 percent in 2005. This class includes crimes with no physical contact.

Grievous assaults increased from 5.4 percent to 7.9 percent of all violent crimes. The ‘other’ class doubled its share, from 0.8 percent to 1.5 percent.

The two largest classes of recorded violent crime, minor assaults and serious assaults, both decreased their share of total violent crime. Minor assaults fell from 34.7 percent to 26.9 percent and serious assaults from 36.5 percent to 34.4 percent. The rate of recorded serious assaults, however, has increased from 34.9 per 10,000 population in 1998 to 40.5 per 10,000 population in 2005. This is due in part to a shift in societal attitudes, with less tolerance for violence by men against women, and therefore a corresponding increase in the crime “male assaults female” (which is included in the serious assaults class). The Police are also less tolerant of both minor and serious violence and will act on these more now than they might have done in the past.

Figure 10: Proportion of Recorded Violent Offences
By class
1996 and 2005



In contrast to recorded crime statistics, violent crime is found to be the crime most reported by respondents in crime victimisation surveys (Mayhew & Reilly forthcoming). The information from crime victimisation surveys provides complementary information on the level of violent crime in New Zealand. As noted previously, the victimisation surveys are not directly comparable with police-recorded crime (see Appendix 3 for further information). Table 2.2 of the NZCASS shows that, in 2005, the police figures comprise 4 percent of the NZCASS figures for assaults. For robbery and theft from the person, the figure is 9 percent.

The resolution rate for total violent crime in 2005 was 80 percent. Resolution rates for each of the six violent crime classes increased between 1996 and 2005. Robbery, although having the lowest resolution rate overall, experienced the greatest increase in the proportion of offences resolved, from 33.5 percent to 40.8 percent. Resolution rates for serious assaults increased from 78.7 percent to 83.5 percent, minor assaults from 76.8 percent to 78.6 percent, and the remaining three classes each increased by 2 percentage points.

Property damage offences

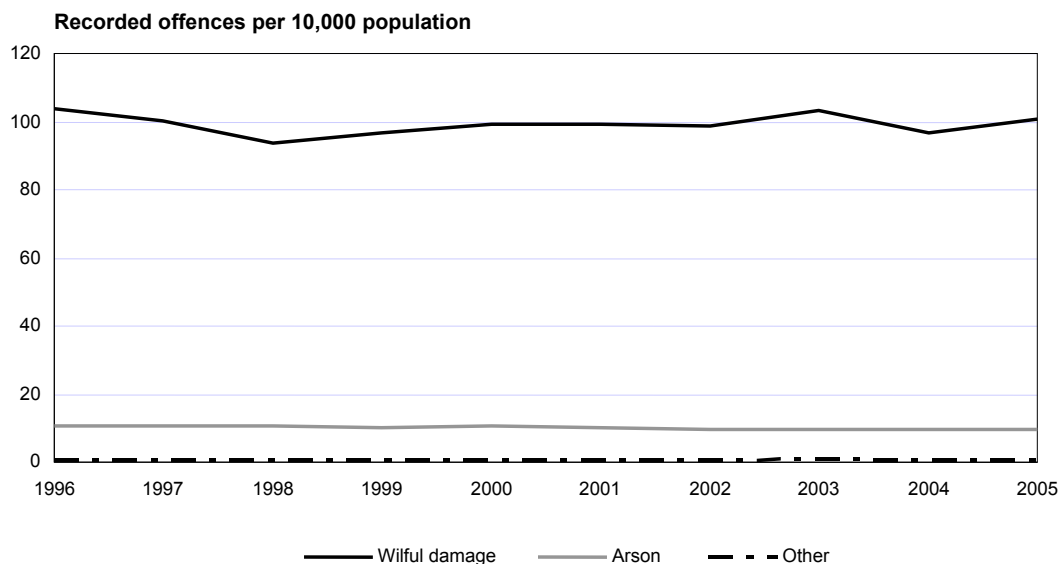
In 2005, the property damage category made up 10.7 percent of all recorded crime, the fourth largest category.

Property damage offences include:

- wilful damage, such as damage to railways, power/gas/fuel or water supply facilities; or endangering or interfering with transport/signals or mining facilities
- arson
- other (intentional damage, contamination and causing disease, endangering).

Wilful damage was the largest class in this category, accounting for almost 91 percent of all property damage offences. There were more than 41,000 recorded wilful damage offences, around 4,000 arson offences and over 200 other property damage offences. There has been little change in the offence rates for the different classes of property damage offences between 1996 and 2005 (see Figure 11).

Figure 11: Rate of Recorded Property Damage Offences
By class
1996–2005



The resolution rate for total property damage offences increased slightly from 28.1 percent to 31.1 percent over the 10-year period. The resolution rate for wilful damage offences was 31.0 percent in 2005. Arson had the lowest resolution rate

(27.3 percent in 2005, an increase from 23.6 percent in 1996), whereas 78.1 percent of other property damage offences were resolved in 2005 (66.7 percent in 1996).

Property abuse offences

In 2005, there were 18,730 recorded property abuse offences, accounting for 4.6 percent of all recorded offences. Between 1996 and 2005, the total property abuse offence rate decreased from 60.9 per 10,000 population to 45.7 per 10,000 population.

Property abuse offences include:

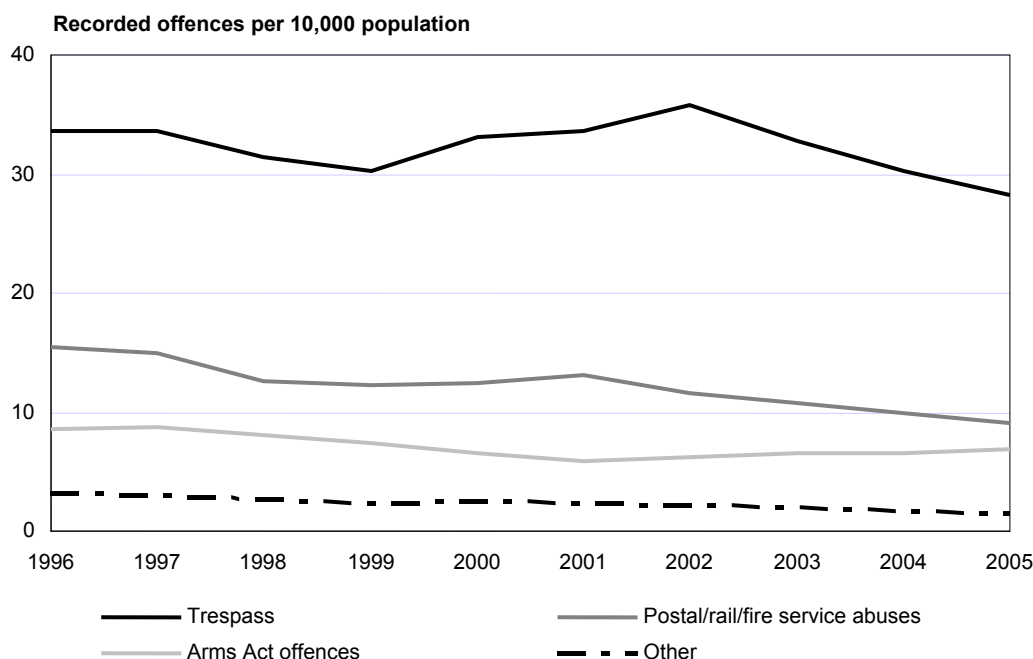
- trespass
- postal/rail/fire service abuses
- Arms Act 1983 offences
- other (animal and littering offences).

The largest property abuse class was trespass, accounting for just over 61 percent of all offences in this category. Postal/rail/fire service abuses contributed around 20 percent of all property abuse offences, followed by Arms Act 1983 offences (15.1 percent).

Figure 12 illustrates that the offence rate for trespass offences varied over the 10-year period, moving between a high of 35.8 per 10,000 population in 2002 and a low in 2005 of 28.2 per 10,000 population. All other classes of property abuse offences generally experienced a decrease in the offence rate over this period. The largest decrease was for those offences classed as 'other' (animal and littering offences), which declined by more than 50 percent.

The resolution rate for all property abuse offences increased from 63.4 percent in 1996 to 70.1 percent in 2005. The resolution rate was highest for Arms Act 1983 offences (82.3 percent in 2005), followed by trespass (72.6 percent), postal/rail/fire service abuses (53.9) and other (64.5).

Figure 12: Rate of Recorded Property Abuse Offences
By class
 1996–2005



Administrative offences

Administrative offences make up one of the smallest crime categories, accounting for less than 3 percent of all recorded crime in 2005 (11,264 offences recorded by the Police). There are many other administrative offences prosecuted annually by other agencies (eg breaches of sentences prosecuted by the Department of Corrections). For example, in 2005, more than 14,000 offences against justice were prosecuted by agencies other than the Police (figures supplied by Ministry of Justice 2006 – see Appendix 3). The majority of these offences were for breaches of community work.

There are four classes in the administrative offences category:

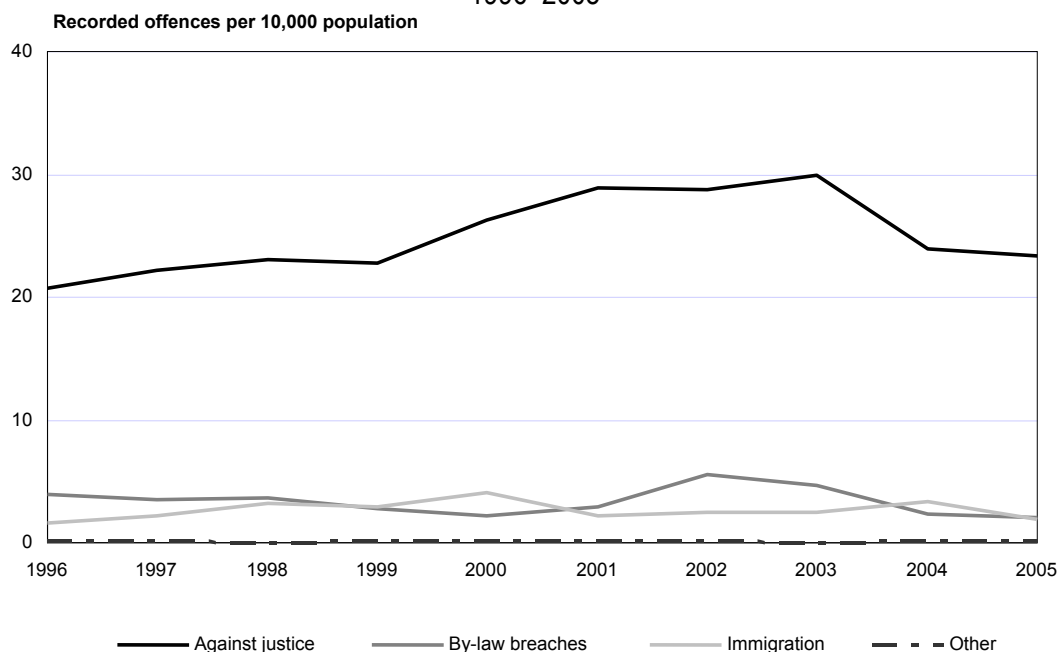
- offences against justice (offences range from offences against a judicial office, such as bribing a member of the Police, to breaches of miscellaneous statutes (such as breaches of the Wine Act 2003))
- by-law breaches
- immigration offences
- other offences (such as offences against national interest; births, deaths and marriages offences; racial offences; and special justice offences, including breaches of the Secondhand Dealers and Pawnbrokers Act 2004, the Sentencing Act 2002 and the Parole Act 2002).

The rate of total administrative offending increased between 1996 and 2005, peaking in 2003 at 37.2 per 10,000 population. However, the rate of offending has since declined to 27.5 per 10,000 population in 2005. Much of the overall increase in administrative offending was due to an increase in recorded offences against justice, which increased from 7,710 to 9,569. Offences against justice was the largest

administrative offence class, accounting for 85.2 percent of all offences in this category (see Figure 13). In 2005, the offence rate for offences against justice was 23.4 per 10,000 population, while the rates for by-law breaches and immigration offences were 2.1 and 1.9 per 10,000 population, respectively.

Figure 13: Rate of Recorded Administrative Offences

By class
1996–2005



For each of the classes of administrative offences, resolution rates were above 80 percent. Resolution rates increased in each of the classes between 1996 and 2005. Immigration offences had the highest resolution rate (92.2 percent in 2005), followed by offences against justice (91.6 percent), by-law breaches (87.9 percent) and other (85.7 percent).

Sexual offences

The smallest crime category is sexual offences, accounting for less than 1 percent of all recorded crime in 2005 and every year since 1994. However, crime victimisation surveys, such as the 2006 NZCASS, report sexual offences to be the most under-reported group of offences. It is estimated that fewer than one in 10 sexual incidents were reported to the Police in 2005 (Mayhew & Reilly forthcoming).

Over recent years, the number of sexual offences recorded by the Police has decreased. Between 1996 and 2005, the total number of sexual offences decreased by 13 percent, from 3,780 to 3,271. Over the 10-year period, the overall sexual offence rate varied between a high of 10.1 per 10,000 population in 1996 and a low of 7.6 per 10,000 population in 2004.

Sexual offences are presented in four classes:

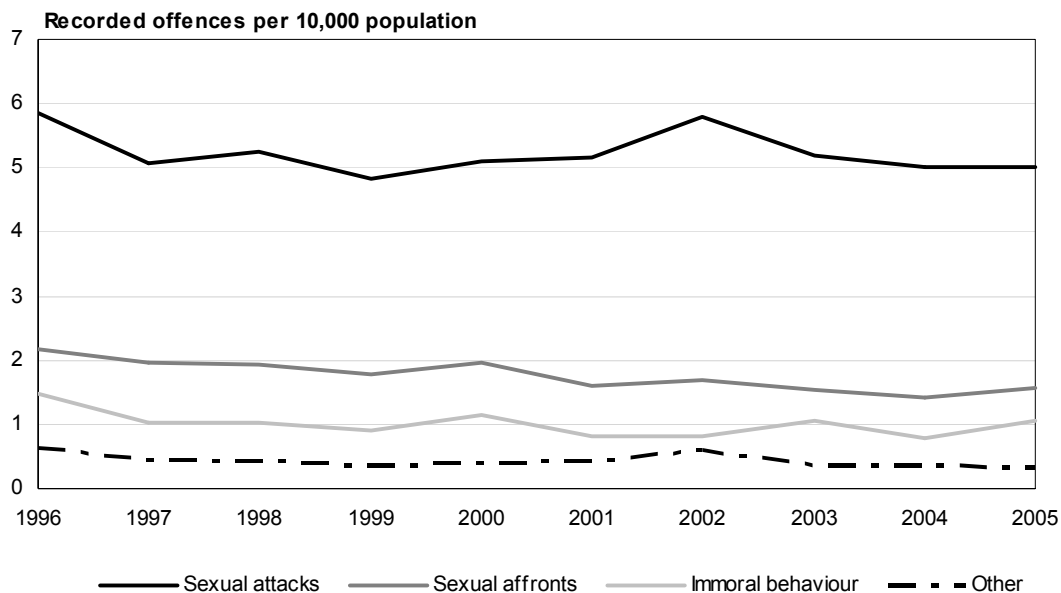
- sexual attacks (includes abduction for sex, indecent assault, rape and attempted rape)
- sexual affronts (such as obscene exposure)

- immoral behaviour (includes sexual intercourse or attempted sex with underage children and other indecent acts)
- other (abnormal sex, indecent videos, and immoral behaviour/miscellaneous offences).

The majority of recorded sexual offences were sexual attacks (see Figure 14). Between 1996 and 2005, this class contributed between 57 percent and 66 percent of the total proportion of sexual offences. However, the rate of sexual attacks declined from 5.9 per 10,000 population in 1996 to 5.0 per 10,000 population in 2005.

Factors likely to influence the recorded sexual crime rate included the willingness of victims to report such crime, changes in social attitudes, initiatives by the Police, and the influence of welfare and other community agencies in uncovering sexual offending. Because of the way the police statistics dataset is generated, it should be noted that historical offences reported to the Police do not appear in official statistics.

Figure 14: Rate of Recorded Sexual Offences
By class
1996–2005



The resolution rate for each of the sexual offence classes was above 50 percent in 2005. The immoral behaviour offence class had the highest resolution rate (68.0 percent). However, over the 10-year period, it varied between a low of 55.5 percent and a high of 73.3 percent. The resolution rate for sexual attacks ranged between 48.2 percent and 57.0 percent. The resolution rates in 2005 for sexual affronts and other sexual offences were 51.1 and 53.7 percent, respectively.

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Definitions of terms

Crime rate (same as recorded offence rate, offence rate) – number of offences per 10,000 population).

LES (Law Enforcement System), formerly the Wanganui Computer – IT system from the late 1970s used by justice sector agencies (the Police, Department of Justice, Ministry of Justice, Department for Courts, Department of Corrections, Ministry of Transport, Land Transport Authority) to share data on offending and offenders. The Police were the last agency to leave LES in June 2005.

NIA (National Intelligence Application) – Police IT system that replaced LES from June 2005.

Offences discovered by the Police – offences that the Police discover while carrying out their duties (eg a drugs offence may be discovered while an officer is patrolling the streets).

Offences reported to the Police – offences that people (usually victims or witnesses) notify the Police about (eg a home owner might report a burglary).

Offence statistics – the number of offences recorded by the Police, either reported to or discovered by the Police.

Reporting collection – data extracted from the Police IT system (LES or NIA) for statistical purposes.

Resolution rate (clearance rate) – number of offences recorded as resolved as a proportion of the number of offences.

Resolved offences – offences where one or more alleged offenders have been identified.

Table Builder – software used by Statistics New Zealand to make data publicly available on its website.

Tier 1 official statistics – a portfolio of statistics (to be known as Tier 1) across the State sector that are important in their own right and, consequently, need to be produced, analysed and released to high statistical standards.

Appendix 1: Statistical tables

Table A1.1: Number of Recorded Offences
By category
1996–2005

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
	Number									
Dishonesty	310,066	302,531	290,194	269,075	254,750	249,002	258,916	255,302	230,599	230,487
Drugs and antisocial	50,410	54,052	57,276	56,051	53,340	55,043	55,366	58,822	54,451	51,830
Violence	39,866	40,121	40,441	39,688	41,573	44,024	44,960	45,614	45,229	48,337
Sexual	3,780	3,220	3,293	3,026	3,314	3,109	3,508	3,250	3,074	3,271
Property damage	40,925	40,193	38,097	39,213	40,515	40,743	40,864	43,680	41,332	43,577
Property abuse	22,731	22,828	20,914	20,046	21,099	21,354	21,992	20,921	19,663	18,730
Administrative	9,818	10,602	11,462	10,975	12,639	13,251	14,523	14,900	12,015	11,264
Total	477,596	473,547	461,677	438,074	427,230	426,526	440,129	442,489	406,363	407,496
	Proportion of all offences (%)									
Dishonesty	64.9	63.9	62.9	61.4	59.6	58.4	58.8	57.7	56.7	56.6
Drugs and antisocial	10.6	11.4	12.4	12.8	12.5	12.9	12.6	13.3	13.4	12.7
Violence	8.3	8.5	8.8	9.1	9.7	10.3	10.2	10.3	11.1	11.9
Sexual	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.8
Property damage	8.6	8.5	8.3	9.0	9.5	9.6	9.3	9.9	10.2	10.7
Property abuse	4.8	4.8	4.5	4.6	4.9	5.0	5.0	4.7	4.8	4.6
Administrative	2.1	2.2	2.5	2.5	3.0	3.1	3.3	3.4	3.0	2.8
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Table A1.2: Rate of Recorded Offences
By category
1996–2005

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
	Number per 10,000 population									
Dishonesty	830.8	800.0	760.7	701.6	660.4	641.6	657.3	636.8	567.8	562.4
Drugs and antisocial	135.1	142.9	150.1	146.2	138.3	141.8	140.6	146.7	134.1	126.5
Violence	106.8	106.1	106.0	103.5	107.8	113.4	114.1	113.8	111.4	117.9
Sexual	10.1	8.5	8.6	7.9	8.6	8.0	8.9	8.1	7.6	8.0
Property damage	109.7	106.3	99.9	102.3	105.0	105.0	103.7	108.9	101.8	106.3
Property abuse	60.9	60.4	54.8	52.3	54.7	55.0	55.8	52.2	48.4	45.7
Administrative	26.3	28.0	30.0	28.6	32.8	34.1	36.9	37.2	29.6	27.5
Total	1,279.7	1,252.3	1,210.3	1,142.3	1,107.6	1,099.0	1,117.4	1,103.7	1,000.5	994.2

Table A1.3: Number of Recorded Offences
By class
1996–2005

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
	Number									
Dishonesty										
Theft	140,666	136,981	134,889	128,612	126,924	130,389	135,492	134,037	120,651	122,298
Burglary	80,999	81,027	78,832	74,490	66,520	60,345	60,404	61,630	57,669	58,133
Car conversion	51,932	52,372	50,319	43,511	37,799	35,860	38,824	39,028	33,547	36,162
Fraud	33,576	28,978	23,163	19,811	20,765	19,960	21,823	17,969	16,008	11,202
Receiving	2,893	3,173	2,991	2,651	2,742	2,448	2,373	2,505	2,376	2,330
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	133	348	362
Drugs and antisocial										
Drugs (cannabis)	20,616	24,411	25,309	24,687	22,660	22,740	21,034	19,897	16,409	14,713
Drugs (not cannabis)	1,432	1,419	1,583	1,640	2,070	2,212	2,841	3,545	3,501	4,224
Disorder	20,521	19,852	20,395	20,409	21,998	23,505	24,299	25,720	22,988	21,646
Sale of Liquor Act 1989	5,180	4,572	5,467	4,551	1,457	1,336	1,801	4,293	6,462	6,385
Family offences	2,376	3,496	4,248	4,549	4,927	5,006	5,116	5,105	4,914	4,707
Other	285	302	274	215	228	244	275	262	177	155
Violence										
Serious assaults	14,565	13,645	13,305	13,463	14,154	14,593	14,602	15,086	15,535	16,619
Minor assaults	13,850	13,765	13,956	13,229	13,309	13,973	14,197	13,407	12,908	13,014
Intimidation/threats	7,168	7,929	8,154	8,325	8,988	10,267	10,516	11,224	10,695	11,917
Grievous assaults	2,139	2,352	2,512	2,495	2,714	2,896	3,013	3,198	3,384	3,836
Robbery	1,833	2,032	2,004	1,585	1,779	1,658	1,836	1,874	1,971	2,213
Other	397	479	499	409	417	415	544	558	488	515
Sexual										
Sexual attacks	2,187	1,922	2,000	1,846	1,971	1,999	2,280	2,077	2,030	2,058
Sexual affronts	815	744	735	685	752	624	665	612	578	640
Immoral behaviour	547	383	394	351	442	321	322	418	315	437
Other	231	171	164	144	149	165	241	143	151	136
Property damage										
Wilful damage	38,709	37,952	35,715	37,065	38,198	38,496	38,842	41,406	39,281	41,327
Arson	3,969	4,007	4,118	3,927	4,100	4,017	3,754	3,957	3,847	4,027
Other	243	231	262	220	217	231	270	320	208	228
Property abuse										
Trespass	12,573	12,723	11,976	11,601	12,778	13,041	14,106	13,166	12,269	11,571
Postal/rail/fire service offences	5,797	5,656	4,817	4,700	4,822	5,102	4,573	4,335	4,049	3,737
Arms Act offences	3,190	3,331	3,076	2,812	2,498	2,295	2,461	2,627	2,677	2,834
Other	1,171	1,118	1,045	933	1,001	916	852	793	668	588
Administrative										
Against justice	7,710	8,374	8,801	8,761	10,154	11,240	11,332	11,982	9,715	9,569
By-law breaches	1,461	1,323	1,393	1,054	870	1,119	2,197	1,890	923	850
Immigration	600	852	1,250	1,119	1,563	854	959	1,011	1,347	768
Other	47	53	18	41	52	38	35	17	30	77

Table A1.4: Rate of Recorded Offences
By class
1996–2005

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
	Number per 10,000 population									
Dishonesty										
Theft	376.9	362.2	353.6	335.4	329.0	336.0	344.0	334.3	297.1	298.4
Burglary	217.0	214.3	206.7	194.2	172.4	155.5	153.3	153.7	142.0	141.8
Car conversion	139.2	138.5	131.9	113.5	98.0	92.4	98.6	97.3	82.6	88.2
Fraud	90.0	76.6	60.7	51.7	53.8	51.4	55.4	44.8	39.4	27.3
Receiving	7.8	8.4	7.8	6.9	7.1	6.3	6.0	6.2	5.8	5.7
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.9	0.9
Drugs and antisocial										
Drugs (cannabis)	55.2	64.6	66.3	64.4	58.7	58.6	53.4	49.6	40.4	35.9
Drugs (not cannabis)	3.8	3.8	4.1	4.3	5.4	5.7	7.2	8.8	8.6	10.3
Disorder	55.0	52.5	53.5	53.2	57.0	60.6	61.7	64.2	56.6	52.8
Sale of Liquor Act 1989	13.9	12.1	14.3	11.9	3.8	3.4	4.6	10.7	15.9	15.6
Family offences	6.4	9.2	11.1	11.9	12.8	12.9	13.0	12.7	12.1	11.5
Other	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.4	0.4
Violence										
Serious assaults	39.0	36.1	34.9	35.1	36.7	37.6	37.1	37.6	38.2	40.5
Minor assaults	37.1	36.4	36.6	34.5	34.5	36.0	36.0	33.4	31.8	31.8
Intimidation/threats	19.2	21.0	21.4	21.7	23.3	26.5	26.7	28.0	26.3	29.1
Grievous assaults	5.7	6.2	6.6	6.5	7.0	7.5	7.6	8.0	8.3	9.4
Robbery	4.9	5.4	5.3	4.1	4.6	4.3	4.7	4.7	4.9	5.4
Other	1.1	1.3	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.4	1.4	1.2	1.3
Sexual										
Sexual attacks	5.9	5.1	5.2	4.8	5.1	5.2	5.8	5.2	5.0	5.0
Sexual affronts	2.2	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.9	1.6	1.7	1.5	1.4	1.6
Immoral behaviour	1.5	1.0	1.0	0.9	1.1	0.8	0.8	1.0	0.8	1.1
Other	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.3
Property damage										
Wilful damage	103.7	100.4	93.6	96.6	99.0	99.2	98.6	103.3	96.7	100.8
Arson	10.6	10.6	10.8	10.2	10.6	10.4	9.5	9.9	9.5	9.8
Other	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.5	0.6
Property abuse										
Trespass	33.7	33.6	31.4	30.3	33.1	33.6	35.8	32.8	30.2	28.2
Postal/rail/fire service offences	15.5	15.0	12.6	12.3	12.5	13.1	11.6	10.8	10.0	9.1
Arms Act offences	8.5	8.8	8.1	7.3	6.5	5.9	6.2	6.6	6.6	6.9
Other	3.1	3.0	2.7	2.4	2.6	2.4	2.2	2.0	1.6	1.4
Administrative										
Against justice	20.7	22.1	23.1	22.8	26.3	29.0	28.8	29.9	23.9	23.3
By-law breaches	3.9	3.5	3.7	2.7	2.3	2.9	5.6	4.7	2.3	2.1
Immigration	1.6	2.3	3.3	2.9	4.1	2.2	2.4	2.5	3.3	1.9
Other	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2

Table A1.5: Number of Recorded Offences Resolved
By category
 1996–2005

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
	Number									
Dishonesty	64,884	61,118	56,984	54,413	57,661	56,523	58,371	59,102	54,860	51,550
Drugs and antisocial	44,259	47,170	51,029	49,775	47,778	48,599	49,036	53,209	49,904	47,398
Violence	30,442	30,578	30,739	30,348	31,849	33,978	34,962	36,440	36,449	38,658
Sexual	2,131	1,782	1,738	1,500	1,783	1,621	2,005	1,820	1,718	1,790
Property damage	162	157	197	153	168	179	206	250	166	178
Property abuse	14,408	15,032	13,975	13,395	14,409	14,378	15,168	15,176	14,389	13,131
Administrative	8,111	9,142	9,941	9,287	10,841	11,177	12,537	13,196	10,983	10,282
Total	164,397	164,979	164,603	158,871	164,489	166,455	172,285	179,193	168,469	162,987
	Proportion resolved (%)									
Dishonesty	20.9	20.2	19.6	20.2	22.6	22.7	22.5	23.1	23.8	22.4
Drugs and antisocial	87.8	87.3	89.1	88.8	89.6	88.3	88.6	90.5	91.6	91.4
Violence	76.4	76.2	76.0	76.5	76.6	77.2	77.8	79.9	80.6	80.0
Sexual	56.4	55.3	52.8	49.6	53.8	52.1	57.2	56.0	55.9	54.7
Property damage	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.4
Property abuse	63.4	65.8	66.8	66.8	68.3	67.3	69.0	72.5	73.2	70.1
Administrative	82.6	86.2	86.7	84.6	85.8	84.3	86.3	88.6	91.4	91.3
Total	34.4	34.8	35.7	36.3	38.5	39.0	39.1	40.5	41.5	40.0

Table A1.6: Number of Recorded Offences Resolved
By class
 1996–2005

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
	Number									
Dishonesty										
Theft	29,485	27,325	26,260	26,750	27,938	28,214	28,546	29,021	27,692	26,458
Burglary	9,367	9,441	8,741	8,303	10,521	9,684	9,616	10,194	9,953	9,413
Car conversion	8,465	8,295	7,909	7,416	7,237	7,333	8,456	8,891	7,497	7,845
Fraud	14,840	13,189	11,220	9,408	9,338	8,940	9,491	8,503	7,277	5,454
Receiving	2,727	2,868	2,854	2,536	2,627	2,352	2,262	2,415	2,294	2,256
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	78	147	124
Drugs and antisocial										
Drugs (cannabis)	18,915	21,699	22,934	22,027	20,861	20,434	18,950	18,205	15,344	13,949
Drugs (not cannabis)	1,325	1,304	1,408	1,508	1,898	2,001	2,565	3,202	3,237	3,689
Disorder	17,011	16,817	17,843	18,138	19,605	20,721	21,472	23,127	20,693	19,257
Sale of Liquor Act 1989	5,007	4,322	5,201	4,385	1,240	1,193	1,660	4,180	6,263	6,222
Family offences	1,741	2,757	3,400	3,533	3,987	4,068	4,148	4,256	4,215	4,141
Other	260	271	243	184	187	182	241	239	152	140
Violence										
Serious assaults	11,458	10,775	10,519	10,651	11,143	11,634	11,753	12,423	13,102	13,914
Minor assaults	10,641	10,547	10,684	10,112	10,219	10,745	11,038	10,719	10,416	10,233
Intimidation/threats	5,774	6,291	6,504	6,547	7,196	8,301	8,477	9,283	8,828	9,854
Grievous assaults	1,733	1,923	2,007	2,059	2,222	2,313	2,440	2,656	2,825	3,209
Robbery	614	740	679	548	612	538	664	707	718	902
Other	222	302	346	431	457	447	590	652	560	546
Sexual										
Sexual attacks	1,219	1,046	1,013	890	1,039	1,022	1,272	1,140	1,158	1,093
Sexual affronts	395	363	349	334	339	320	359	315	292	327
Immoral behaviour	383	280	285	218	324	178	204	296	195	297
Other	134	93	91	58	81	101	170	69	73	73
Property damage										
Wilful damage	10,888	10,816	10,048	10,956	11,996	11,991	11,729	12,747	12,359	12,824
Arson	466	504	525	472	549	561	451	600	516	551
Other	162	157	197	153	168	179	206	250	166	178
Property abuse										
Trespass	8,424	8,819	8,320	8,080	9,003	9,218	10,268	10,033	9,367	8,405
Postal/rail/fire service offences	2,757	2,882	2,434	2,391	2,656	2,697	2,334	2,420	2,346	2,016
Arms Act offences	2,504	2,653	2,498	2,280	2,068	1,878	2,023	2,196	2,244	2,331
Other	723	678	723	644	682	585	543	527	432	379
Administrative										
Against justice	6,405	7,207	7,527	7,342	8,558	9,399	9,572	10,477	8,852	8,761
By-law breaches	1,136	1,125	1,238	936	763	993	2,076	1,745	805	747
Immigration	543	792	1,169	1,002	1,497	772	870	965	1,309	708
Other	27	18	7	7	23	13	19	9	17	66

Table A1.7: Proportion of Recorded Offences Resolved
By class
1996–2005

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
	Proportion resolved (%)									
Dishonesty										
Theft	21.0	19.9	19.5	20.8	22.0	21.6	21.1	21.7	23.0	21.6
Burglary	11.6	11.7	11.1	11.1	15.8	16.0	15.9	16.5	17.3	16.2
Car conversion	16.3	15.8	15.7	17.0	19.1	20.4	21.8	22.8	22.3	21.7
Fraud	44.2	45.5	48.4	47.5	45.0	44.8	43.5	47.3	45.5	48.7
Receiving	94.3	90.4	95.4	95.7	95.8	96.1	95.3	96.4	96.5	96.8
Other							58.6	42.2	34.3	
Drugs and antisocial										
Drugs (cannabis)	91.7	88.9	90.6	89.2	92.1	89.9	90.1	91.5	93.5	94.8
Drugs (not cannabis)	92.5	91.9	88.9	92.0	91.7	90.5	90.3	90.3	92.5	87.3
Disorder	82.9	84.7	87.5	88.9	89.1	88.2	88.4	89.9	90.0	89.0
Sale of Liquor Act 1989	96.7	94.5	95.1	96.4	85.1	89.3	92.2	97.4	96.9	97.4
Family offences	73.3	78.9	80.0	77.7	80.9	81.3	81.1	83.4	85.8	88.0
Other	91.2	89.7	88.7	85.6	82.0	74.6	87.6	91.2	85.9	90.3
Violence										
Serious assaults	78.7	79.0	79.1	79.1	78.7	79.7	80.5	82.3	84.3	83.7
Minor assaults	76.8	76.6	76.6	76.4	76.8	76.9	77.7	80.0	80.7	78.6
Intimidation/threats	80.6	79.3	79.8	78.6	80.1	80.9	80.6	82.7	82.5	82.7
Grievous assaults	81.0	81.8	79.9	82.5	81.9	79.9	81.0	83.1	83.5	83.7
Robbery	33.5	36.4	33.9	34.6	34.4	32.4	36.2	37.7	36.4	40.8
Other	55.9	63.0	69.3	105.4	109.6	107.7	108.5	116.8	114.8	106.0
Sexual										
Sexual attacks	55.7	54.4	50.7	48.2	52.7	51.1	55.8	54.9	57.0	53.1
Sexual affronts	48.5	48.8	47.5	48.8	45.1	51.3	54.0	51.5	50.5	51.1
Immoral behaviour	70.0	73.1	72.3	62.1	73.3	55.5	63.4	70.8	61.9	68.0
Other	58.0	54.4	55.5	40.3	54.4	61.2	70.5	48.3	48.3	53.7
Property damage										
Wilful damage	28.1	28.5	28.1	29.6	31.4	31.1	30.2	30.8	31.5	31.0
Arson	11.7	12.6	12.7	12.0	13.4	14.0	12.0	15.2	13.4	13.7
Other	66.7	68.0	75.2	69.5	77.4	77.5	76.3	78.1	79.8	78.1
Property abuse										
Trespass	67.0	69.3	69.5	69.6	70.5	70.7	72.8	76.2	76.3	72.6
Postal/rail/fire service offences	47.6	51.0	50.5	50.9	55.1	52.9	51.0	55.8	57.9	53.9
Arms Act offences	78.5	79.6	81.2	81.1	82.8	81.8	82.2	83.6	83.8	82.3
Other	61.7	60.6	69.2	69.0	68.1	63.9	63.7	66.5	64.7	64.5
Administrative										
Against justice	83.1	86.1	85.5	83.8	84.3	83.6	84.5	87.4	91.1	91.6
By-law breaches	77.8	85.0	88.9	88.8	87.7	88.7	94.5	92.3	87.2	87.9
Immigration	90.5	93.0	93.5	89.5	95.8	90.4	90.7	95.5	97.2	92.2
Other	57.4	34.0	38.9	17.1	44.2	34.2	54.3	52.9	56.7	85.7

Appendix 2: Population estimates

Table A2.1: Population Estimates, New Zealand

1996–2005

1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
3,732,060	3,781,540	3,814,670	3,834,980	3,857,410	3,881,010	3,939,000	4,009,280	4,061,600	4,098,570

Appendix 3: Sources of information

Recorded offences

The recorded offence data is sourced from the New Zealand Police IT system. The National Intelligence Application (NIA) replaced the Law Enforcement System (LES) as the main policing IT system in June 2005. The IT system's main purpose is not as a statistical tool but as an operational system. Data is entered at police stations and collated nationally.

The operational systems contain dynamic records of offences and those apprehended for offences. A copy of the operational system is captured at the close-off date for the reporting period and added to the reporting collection.

The NIA was designed so that there was no significant change in collection methods used by the LES. The main changes were to the user interface. However, it is possible that the change in system may have caused unintended changes in the data, and hence the statistical trends. Axist Consulting New Zealand Ltd (2006 p 3) noted:

“Changes made to police computer systems, during 2005/2006, have influenced the way in which crimes are recorded and counted. In particular, the migration from the Law Enforcement System (LES) to a new National Intelligence Application (NIA) appears to have influenced the recording and counting of crime since July 2005.

It appears that a discontinuity in statistics has occurred when moving between LES and NIA. The new NIA system essentially replicates the old practices surrounding statistics entry into LES ... However, there are some subtle changes that will have influenced the statistics capture and quality control. During the computer transition, minimal change was made to statistics functionality to ensure that there was minimisation of risk, complexity and effort involved in the migration process. However, natural enhancements integral to the NIA application architecture (eg wizard entry and a graphical user interface) and processes by which the organisation has adjusted to the NIA environment (training, data entry processes, file auditing) appear to have influenced the statistics capture. There now appears to be a higher propensity to record offence statistics in the NIA system than there was in the LES system. This represents a change in statistics recording practice, not an increase in the level of criminal offending. Likely causes are the different computer environment for data entry, resourcing and/or data entry responsibilities, and possible changes in local auditing practices.”

As the NIA develops, collection methods may be changed and improved.

It is important to understand that the Police do not purport to measure all incidents of crime, but only the subset that is reported to or discovered by the Police. Crime survey data shows that the majority of crimes recorded by the Police are reported by victims, with a small number discovered by the Police. The public play a big role in

the production of police statistics. Table 2.2 of the New Zealand Crime and Safety Survey (NZCASS) shows that, in 2005, 44 percent of comparable crimes in NZCASS were reported to the Police.

Content of reporting collection for offences

Date:	Year that offence occurred, eg 2005
Location:	Used to identify police district or area where the offence occurred
Offence:	Type of offence code
Scene:	Type of scene where offence took place
Recorded:	Number of offences recorded
Resolved:	Number of recorded offences resolved

Note that location and scene are not analysed in this report.

Data quality

Statistics New Zealand is assessing the police crime statistics collection (the reporting collection) for Tier 1 official statistics statistical suitability. Although the assessment has not been completed, the work so far has shown that although the collection has some limitations, it is statistically suitable to generate Tier 1 statistics. The limitations identified during the assessment are noted in relevant places in the report. Sources of under-coverage in the collection are noted below.

Counting rules

Because of the nature of police work, there may be some delay between an event occurring and the data being entered on the system. To allow for this delay, the reporting collection is updated at the end of the 14th day following the end of the period (calendar or fiscal year). That is, at the end of 14 January and 14 July, the reporting collection is updated with records from the periods 1 January to 31 December and 1 July to 30 June, respectively. Any data from the relevant period that has not been entered on the operational system by the end of the 14th day following the end of the period will not be added to the reporting collection. Axist Consulting Ltd (2006 p 13) notes:

“[I]n fiscal year statistics, the months of May and June can often have significantly lower levels of recorded crime than other months, not necessarily because there was [sic] actually lower levels of crime, but because further counting of crime in those months was essentially ceased on 15th July.”

Under-coverage

Traffic offences

The reporting collection does not contain information on traffic offences reported to or discovered by the Police. Before the merger of the Police and Traffic Safety Service on 1 July 1992, not all traffic offences were dealt with by the Police. The IT systems for dealing with traffic offences and other offences were not merged on LES after the organisations merged, and still appear to be separate, so traffic offences are not included in the reporting collection.

Ministry of Justice figures show that 25 percent of all prosecutions finalised in 2005 were traffic offences (Lash 2006 p 32).

Infringement notices

Infringement offences are not included in the reporting collection. Some offences, such as a minor drinking or possessing alcohol for consumption in a public place, may be prosecuted in court or treated as an infringement, at police discretion. If the Police discover a person committing one of these offences, and decide to issue an infringement notice, the infringement is recorded in a different part of the IT system and is not added to the reporting collection. If the Police do not issue an infringement notice, but do decide to apprehend the person, the offence is added to the offence system and will appear in the reporting collection.

Police discretion

As well as having discretion on whether some crimes are dealt with as infringements or as an apprehension, Police have discretion on whether they record less serious crimes.

Number of offences recorded for each incident

Some incidents may have more than one potential offence associated with them. Sometimes, one representative offence will be recorded, and in other cases all potential offences will be recorded (see Axist Consulting New Zealand Ltd 2006 p 36).

Timing of data extraction for reporting collection (see "Counting rules" above)

Official crime statistics are based on the reporting collection and relate to offences recorded in LES or NIA within a given year, calendar or fiscal, as at a date 14 days following the end of that year. If an offence is recorded 15 days or more after the end of a year it will not appear in the official statistics for that year. Similarly, if an offence is resolved 15 days or more after the end of a year it will not appear as resolved in the official statistics for that year.

Although most offences are recorded within a short period of the offence occurring, many offences take time to resolve. Offences that are recorded towards the end of a year that are resolved a few weeks into the following year will not appear as resolved in official statistics. This phenomenon of undercounting resolutions has a more marked impact for some types of offences than others, such as offences requiring long investigations, eg many serial crimes, burglaries and homicides. However, the proportion undercounted for each type of offence is likely to be consistent from year to year.

Victimisations

The data is not designed to establish how many people have been victims of crimes, or the number of crimes committed. This type of information is best obtained through victimisation surveys that include crimes that were not reported to the Police. Research indicates that many crimes are never reported to the Police in the first instance. The 2001 New Zealand National Survey of Crime Victims (NZNSCV) showed that the number of offences recorded in police statistics in 2000 represented 15 percent of the estimated number of victimisations. Crimes most likely to be reported include those that involve insurance claims, those where injuries require

medical treatment, and crimes discovered by the Police as a result of police practice (eg policing of liquor bans).

Crimes prosecuted by other agencies

Data on the NIA includes only crimes reported to or discovered by the Police. It does not include crimes prosecuted by other agencies. Examples of other agencies that prosecute crime are the Department of Corrections (prosecutes people who breach sentences administered by the department) and the Department of Inland Revenue (prosecutes tax offenders). Information from the Research, Evaluation and Modelling Unit of the Ministry of Justice showed that 34,794 offences prosecuted by agencies other than the Police were finalised in 2005 (accounting for 12 percent of all prosecutions). The Department of Corrections was the agency that prosecuted the greatest proportion of the non-police prosecutions (37 percent).

Crime victimisation surveys

The 2006 NZCASS is the third in a series of surveys that measures society's experience of crime, the perception of crime problems and individuals' concerns about personal victimisation. The previous two surveys, conducted in 1996 and 2001, were called the NZNSCV.

The NZCASS covers people in private households. It does not, however, cover commercial victimisation, 'victimless' crimes, or those against people aged less than 15 years. Compared with the official police statistics, it provides a higher count of crime because it counts unreported crime. It also provides information about the context and impact of victimisation (Mayhew & Reilly forthcoming).

All surveys are subject to sampling and non-sampling errors. The overall response rate in the 2006 NZCASS was 59 percent in the main sample.

Population data

The population data was supplied by Statistics NZ, with the following notes:

1. The estimated resident population of an area in New Zealand is an estimate of all people who usually live in that area at a given date. It includes all residents present in New Zealand and counted by the census, residents who are temporarily elsewhere in New Zealand and counted by the census, residents who are temporarily overseas (who are not included in the census), and an adjustment for residents missed or counted more than once by the census (net census undercount). Visitors from elsewhere in New Zealand and from overseas are excluded.
2. The estimated resident population of each area at 30 June 1996–2005 is based on the 1996 and 2001 Census usually resident population counts, updated for:
 - a. net census undercount
 - b. residents temporarily overseas on census night
 - c. births, deaths and net migration between census night (6 March 2001) and the date of estimate
 - d. reconciliation with demographic estimates for ages 0–9 years.
3. Police area and district boundaries are derived from 2005 meshblock boundaries.

4. The following rounding rules have applied: age group by sex data has been rounded to the nearest 10.
5. Owing to rounding, individual figures may not always sum to give the stated totals.

Although population estimates were available by police district and age, the offence rates have been calculated using the total population (see Appendix 2).

Appendix 4: Methods

Trend analysis

The main analytical technique used in this report is trend analysis. The report graphs population rates of types of offences each year over a 10-year period so that trends over the period can be identified. Axist Consulting New Zealand Ltd (2006 p 13) identified the following:

“Recorded crime figures have a number of time dependencies. Most offence classes show a strong daily or weekly repeating pattern. For example, higher levels of recorded offending are observed during nights or during weekends. This pattern is especially apparent for crimes such as violent offending.

There is also a seasonal pattern of offending within each year, with higher levels of some offence types being clustered predictably around certain times of the year. For example, public place offences such as offences against liquor bans are highest during summer months.”

Because this report uses total offences in each year, rather than days, weeks or months, the time dependencies identified by Axist Consulting are not apparent. Therefore, the analysis has not had to allow for the variations that would be shown if a shorter period of analysis had been used. In particular, smoothing techniques, such as moving averages and seasonal analysis, have not been used. Changes from year to year and long-term trends have generally been clearly illustrated by the graphs.

Having identified the trends and changes over time, the report explores explanations of these changes.

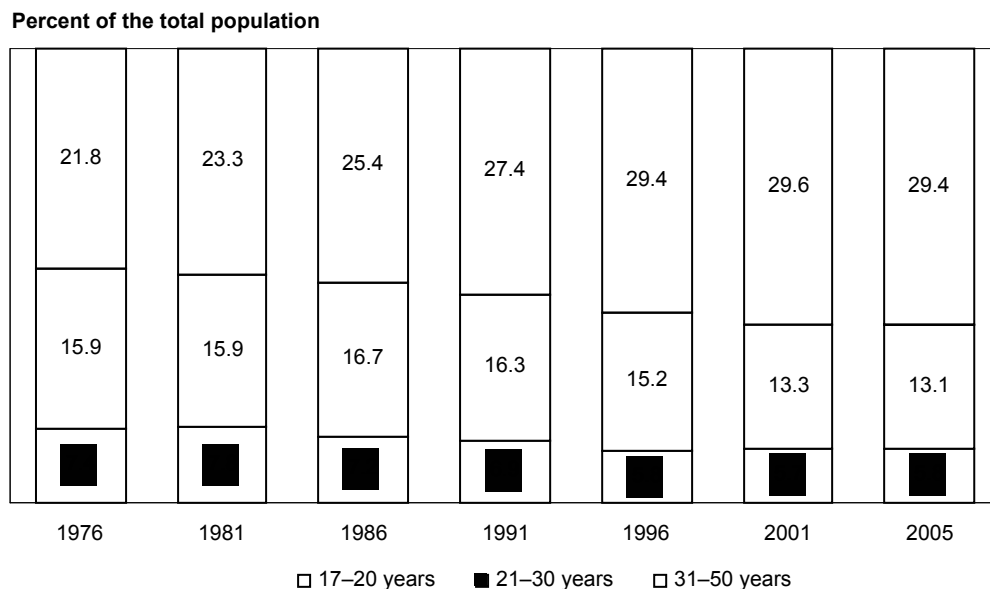
Population rates

The size of the New Zealand population has increased over the period of time that is the focus of this report (1996–2005). Since the size of the population is likely to have an influence on the level of offending, this increase in the population size is taken into account by presenting and analysing rates of the number of offences per 10,000 population. This approach was also taken in the previous two Statistics NZ reports on crime (Statistics New Zealand 1996b and Statistics New Zealand 2001). However, the denominator was per 1,000 population. Appendix 2 provides details of the population data used to calculate these rates.

Although changes in the age structure of the New Zealand population have previously been suggested as an influence on the overall offence rate between 1970 and 1992 (Statistics New Zealand 1996 p 9), the rates used in this report are based on the total population. In 2005, 71 percent of apprehensions were for people aged 30 years or younger, a slight decrease from the 77 percent in 1996 (Statistics New Zealand website). Figure A4.1 shows that the proportion of those aged 30 years and younger in the New Zealand population has been decreasing. It might be suggested that this decrease may have influenced changes in the offence rate. However, Triggs (1997

p 12) showed that when multivariate analysis is used to take into account a range of other factors, changes in the age structure of the population were associated with the growth of drugs offences. Age structure changes were only weakly associated or not associated with changes in other types of offences. It should be noted, however, that this report has not attempted to replicate Triggs' work.

**Figure A4.1: Age Structure of the New Zealand Population Aged 17–50 years
1976–2005**



There are other issues that should be taken into consideration in any analysis of the influence of the age structure on the offence rate. Because the age of an offender is not associated with an offence until an apprehension occurs, and different types of offences have different apprehension rates, analysis of age for offence types with low apprehension rates may not provide an accurate age profile for that type of offence. Age profiles are not uniform across New Zealand, as different police districts have different age profiles. Whether the ratio of offences to the proportion of the population in each age group is constant over time should be analysed. Although the proportion of the population aged between 17 and 20 years has been decreasing in recent years, the number of people in this age group has been increasing.

These issues require a more detailed type of analysis than has been possible in this report. Therefore, although changes in the overall size of the population have been taken into account in this report, taking into account changes in the age structure of the New Zealand population has been outside the scope of the report.

Appendix 5: Classification of types of offences

In New Zealand there are two classification systems for the type of offence:

- the Police system
- the Ministry of Justice system.

Both are based on a common four-digit code system used by administrative data systems belonging to the Police, Land Transport New Zealand, the Ministry of Justice and the Department of Corrections. This means that as long as the four-digit code is available on the data extracted from one of these systems, either of the two classification systems may be used to present analysis of the data.

The Ministry of Justice is leading a review of the way that types of offences are classified, so that a common standard system can be adopted for New Zealand. The standard adopted may be one of the current systems, or may be a new system developed during the review process. Until the review is completed, both systems will continue to be used.

Police statistics have traditionally been presented using the police classification system, including the police data accessible with Table Builder on the Statistics NZ website. This report presents the data using the police classification system because a New Zealand standard has not yet been developed.

Two versions of the police classification system are presented here. First, listed below are the three levels of the complete police classification: offence category, class and type. (Note that the abbreviations used by the Police in the classification system have been reproduced in this list.) Second, the classification used in this report is listed.

Offence category	Offence classification	Offence type
Violence	Homicide	Murder
		Attempted Murder
		Manslaughter
		Infanticide
		Abortion
		Aiding Suicide And Pact
		Kidnapping And Abduction
	Robbery	Kidnapping
		Abduction
		Aggravated Robbery
	Grievous Assaults	Non Aggravated Robbery
		Assaults With Intent To Rob
		Compelling Execution Of documents
		Aggravated Robbery cont
Wounding With Intent		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Injuring With Intent Aggravated Wounding/injury Disabling/stupefying Dangerous Acts With Intent Injure If Death Ensued, manslaughter Miscellaneous Grievous Assaults Use Any Firearm Against Law Enforcement Officer Assault With Weapon (c Act S202c)
Serious Assaults	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aggravated Assaults Assaults With Intent To Injure Assault On Child (Under 14 Years) Assaults By Male On Female Assaults Police (Crimes Act) Assaults Person Assisting Police (Crimes Act) Assaults Person Lawful Execution Process Common Assault (Crimes Act) Miscellaneous Common Assault (Crimes Act)
Minor Assaults	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assault On Law Enforcement Officers Assaults Person Assisting Police Assaults Official (Other Statutes) Common Assault Miscellaneous Common Assault
Intimidation And Threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Threatens To Kill/Do Gbh Threatening Act (Pers/Prop)(Crimes) Threatening Behaviour/language Demand Intent To Steal/extortion Offensive Weapon Possession Etc Criminal Libel/Slander Fail To Provide Necessities Of Life Miscellaneous Intimidation/threats Threatening To Act (Person Or Property)
Group Assemblies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Riot (crimes Act 1961) Unlawful Assembly Etc Crimes Against Personal Privacy Harassment Act 1997 Participation & Association Offences
Sexual	
Sexual Affronts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indecent Performance And Acts Obscene Exposure

	Genital Mutilation
Indecent Videos	Video Recordings Act 1987 Video Recordings Act 1987 Cont 1 Video Recordings Act 1987 Cont 2
Sexual Attacks	Abduction For Sex Abduction For Marriage Or Sex Indecent Assaults Inducing Sexual Connection By Coercion Sexual Violation Attempt To Commit Sexual Violation Assault With Intent To Commit Sexual Violation Sexual Intercourse With Child Under Care Sex Off Against Male Victim Crimes Act 61
Abnormal Sex	Incest Sex With Animals Sexual Conduct Dependent Family Member Sexual Grooming Offences
Immoral Behaviour	Unlawful Sexual Intercourse Attempted Unlawful Sexual Intercourse Indecent Assaults By Female Indecency (Female-Female) Sex Exploit Person With Significant Impairment Indecency (Male-Female) Indecency (Male-Male) Conspiracy To Induce Sexual Intercourse
Immoral Behaviour/Miscellaneous	Brothels And Prostitution Indecent Publications Act Publish Breaches Miscellaneous Immoral Behaviour Offences Child Sex Tours Offences Films Videos & Publications Classif. Act Prostitution Reform Act Prostitution Reform Act Cont

Drugs & Antisocial

Drugs (not Cannabis)

Import/Export Drugs (Not Cannabis)
Prod/Manufac/Distrib Drugs (Not Cannabis)
Sell/Give/Supply/Admin/Deal Drugs(Not Cannabis)
Possess For Supply Drugs (Not Cannabis)
Procure/Possess Drugs (Not cannabis)
Consume/Smoke/Use Drugs (Not Cannabis)
Cultivation Of Drugs (Not Cannabis)
Miscellaneous Offences Re Drugs (Not Cannabis)
Conspiracy To Deal Drugs (Not Cannabis)

Drugs (Cannabis Only)

Import Or Export Cannabis
Prod/Manu/Distri Cannabis
Sell/Give/Supply/Admin/Deal Cannabis
Possess For Supply Cannabis
Procure/possess Cannabis
Consume/smoke/use Cannabis
Cultivation Of Cannabis
Miscellaneous Offences Re Cannabis
Conspiring To Deal Drugs (Cannabis Only)

Drugs (New Drugs)

Import/export Drugs (New Drugs)
Prod/Manf/ Drugs (New Drugs)
Supply/Admin/Deal Drugs (New Drugs)
Possess For Supply Drugs (New Drugs)
Procure/possess Drugs (New Drugs)
Consume/smoke/use Drugs (New Drugs)
Misc Offences Re Drugs (New Drugs)
Conspiring To Deal Drugs (New Drugs)

Gaming

Bookmaking
Gaming House Offences
Betting
Lottery And Raffle Offences
Miscellaneous Gaming Offences

Licensed Promoters
 Casino Offences-Casino Control Act
 1990
 Casino Offences Cont'd
 Gambling Act
 Gambling Act Continued
 Under Age Gambling

Disorder

Obstructing/Hindering/Resisting
 Inciting/Encouraging Offences
 Behaviour Offences
 Language Offences
 Miscellaneous Disorder Offences
 Disorderly Assembly Offences-Sum
 Off Ac

Vagrancy Offences

Associating Convicted Thief
 Offences
 Preparing To Commit Crimes

Family Offences

Child Abuse (Not Assault)
 Domestic Affairs Breaches
 Miscellaneous Family Offences -
 Miscellaneous Acts and Statutes
 Family Proceedings Act
 Guardianship Act 1968

Family Offences Continued

Publishing & Document Off.
 C,yp & F Act89
 C,yp Offences - C,yp & F Act S446
 Miscellaneous Breaches C,yp & F
 Act 1989
 Residential Tenancies Act 1986
 Domestic Violence Act 1995
 Care of Children Act 2004

Sale Of Liquor Act 1989

Closure Of Licensed Premises
 Riot/Fighting
 Licese/mngr Liqr Offn-Sale Of Liqr
 Act 89
 Licensee/managers Continued
 Offences Re Minor - Sale Of Liquor
 Act 89
 Power Of Police Enter
 Licensed Prems/Demnd Info
 Sales By Unlicensed Persons
 Unlicensed Premises Liquor
 Offences
 Miscellaneous Liquor Offences

Dishonesty

Burglary

Burglary For Drugs
Burglary (Other Property)
Burglary Associated Offences
(Crimes Act)
Crimes Act 1961 Section 240a

Car Conversion Etc

Unlawful Taking/conversion M/v's
Unlawful Interfer/Getting Into
Motor Vehicle
Taking/Conversion/Interference Of
Bicycles
Miscellaneous Car Conversion Etc

Theft

Theft Of Drugs Only
Theft Ex Shop (No Drugs)
Theft (Pillage) (No Drugs)
Theft Ex Car
Theft Ex Person (No Drugs)
Theft Ex Dwelling (No Drugs)
Theft
Theft As Servant/Misappropriation
General Theft - Animals

Receiving

Receiving/Possessing Stolen Goods
(No Drugs)
Receiving Drugs
Engages In Money Laundering
Offences
Financial Transaction Reporting Act
1996

Fraud

Currency/Counterfeiting Offences
Position Of Trust Frauds
False Pretenses by Cheque Only
False Pretenses Other Than Cheque
Credit By Fraud
Fraudulent Breaches Of Specific
Statute
Miscellaneous Frauds
False Pretences By Credit/Bank
Cards
Credit By Fraud By Credit/Bank
Cards

Dishonesty Miscellaneous

Computer Crime

Property Damage

Destruction Of Property

Arson

		Wilful Damage Wilful Damage Under Spec Statute Intentional Damage Contamination And Causing Disease
	Endangering	Endangering/interfering Miscellaneous Endangering Aircraft Hijacking/attempts Etc
Property Abuses	Trespass	Offences Under Trespass Act Trespass Under Specific Statute Miscellaneous Trespass Offences
	Littering	Litter Under Specific Statutes Misc Littering & Leaving Littering (litter Act 1979)
	Animals	Neglect & Cruelty To Animals Miscellaneous Offences Re Animals Off Re Police Dogs Police Amend Act 1996 Animal Welfare Offences
	Postal/Rail/Fire Service Abuses	Railway Abuses Fire Service Abuses Telecommunications Act Postal Services Act Forest And Rural Fire Act 1977
	Arms Act Offences	Licensed Dealer Offences General Restrictions General Obligations Offences Re Licences General Offences Offences Re Use Of Firearm Miscellaneous Offences
Administrative	Against Justice	Offences Against Judicial Office Offences Against Judicial Procedure Offences After Sentence Passed Miscellaneous Offences Against Justice Administrative Breach Of Miscellaneous Statute Other Breaches Miscellaneous Statute Police Complaints Authority Act 1988

	Other Breaches Miscellaneous Statute (Ctd)
	Failure To Answer Bail
Births, Deaths And Marriages	Offences Re Births And Deaths
	Offences Re Marriage
Immigration	Shipping And Seamen Immigration Act 1987
	Crimes Amendment Act 2002
	Maritime and Related Acts
Racial	Race Relations
	Criminal Investigation (Blood Sample) 1995
	Race Relations - Human Rights Act 1993
Against National Interest	Tending To Affect Security
	Miscellaneous Offences Against National Interest
	Terrorism
By-Law Breaches	By-Laws Prosecuted By Police
	Dog Control/hydatids Act 1982
	Dog Control/hydatids Act 1982 Cont.
	Dog Control Act 1996
	Dog Control Act 1996 Cont'd 1
	Dog Control Act 1996 Cont'd 2
Justice (special)	Sentencing Act 2002
	Parole Act 2002
	Criminal Records (Clean Slate) Act 2004
	Secondhand Dealers And Pawnbrokers Act
	Other Breaches Miscellaneous Statute (Ctd 2)

The analysis in this report has mainly been presented at the category or class level. However, for some of the analysis, the data has been disaggregated to the type of offence level, where this disaggregation helps explain the trends. Where it occurs, this disaggregation will be noted in the text. For some of the analysis, the classes have been aggregated because the numbers in some classes are too small for meaningful analysis. Where it occurs, this aggregation will be noted in the text. Listed below is the classification used in this report.

Violence offence category

Serious assaults
 Minor assaults

Intimidation/threats
Grievous assaults
Robbery
Other (group assemblies, homicide, kidnapping and abduction)

Sexual offences category

Sexual attacks
Sexual affronts
Immoral behaviour
Other (abnormal sex, indecent videos)

Drugs and antisocial offence category

Drugs (cannabis)
Drugs (not cannabis)
Disorder
Sale of Liquor Act 1989
Family offences
Other (gaming, vagrancy)

Dishonesty offence category

Theft
Burglary
Car conversion
Fraud
Receiving
Other (dishonesty miscellaneous)

Property damage offence category

Wilful damage
Arson
Other (intentional damage, contamination and causing disease, endangering)

Property abuse offence category

Trespass
Postal/rail/fire service abuses
Arms Act 1983 offences
Other (animal and littering)

Administrative offence category

Against justice
By-law breaches
Immigration
Other