

Crime Statistics for calendar year ending 31 December 2012

Frequently Asked Questions



April 2013

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What is the summary of statistics and how does it compare with previous years?

There were 376,013 recorded offences in 2012, compared with 406,056 the previous year. This represents a decrease of 7.4% or 30,043 offences on the 2011 calendar year and is the lowest crime figure in 24 years.

New Zealand's resident population increased by 0.6% between 2011 and 2012, resulting in an 8% decrease in the number of offences recorded per 10,000 of population.

What are the changes in crime compared to previous years?

The following offence divisions show the changes in recorded offences in 2012 from the previous year.

Offence Division	Variance
Homicide and Related Offences	-18.1%
Acts Intended to Cause Injury	-3.4%
Sexual Assault and Related Offences	1.3%
Dangerous or Negligent Acts	4.4%
Abduction, Harassment etc.	-3.6%
Robbery, Extortion and Related Offences	-10.1%
Unlawful Entry/Burglary etc.	-11.1%
Theft and Related Offences	-11.8%
Fraud, Deception and Related Offences	0.0%
Illicit Drug Offences	0.3%
Weapons and Explosives Offences	-4.7%
Property Damage etc.	-5.9%
Public Order Offences	-1.0%
Offences Against Justice etc.	-9.2%
Miscellaneous Offences	-3.1%
TOTAL	-7.4%

What is the main proportion of recorded crime by offence divisions?

The offence divisions which make up the most crime, by proportion, are:

Offence division	Recorded 2012	Proportion recorded
Theft and related offences	119,476	31.8%
Unlawful entry with intent/burglary, break and enter	52,937	14.1%
Property damage and environmental pollution	48,901	13.0%
Public order offences	42,522	11.3%
Acts intended to cause injury	40,851	10.9%

What are the statistics by Police District?

The following table gives a breakdown of total recorded offences by District:

District	2011	2012	Variance	Variance / 10,000 population
Northland	15,211	15,355	0.9%	1.0%
Waitematā	36,214	31,718	-12.4%	-13.7%

Auckland City	55,220	48,522	-12.1%	-13.2%
Counties Manukau	50,228	44,699	-11.0%	-12.5%
Waikato	35,355	32,693	-7.5%	-8.3%
Bay of Plenty	36,534	33,935	-7.1%	-7.2%
Eastern	25,058	22,742	-9.2%	-9.2%
Central	29,593	27,575	-6.8%	-7.0%
Wellington	42,444	38,613	-9.0%	-9.5%
Tasman	16,695	15,604	-6.5%	-6.9%
Canterbury	40,540	42,796	5.6%	5.9%
Southern	22,964	21,761	-5.2%	-5.7%
TOTAL	406,056	376,013	-7.4%	-8.0%

What impact did the Canterbury earthquake have on reported crime?

Immediately after the earthquakes, there was a sudden large decrease in reported theft, property damage and related offences, with less serious offences dropping the most.

There was a reduction in Canterbury's unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter, as a direct result of people shifting out of the CBD and Eastern areas.

We know that the unprecedented drop in recorded in crime in 2011 was an anomaly as the result of the earthquakes. Offence volumes are still below what they were before the quakes.

What impact are Neighbourhood Policing Teams having on the statistics?

Anecdotally Police know the NPTs are having an impact in communities across the country, with reports of offending dropping when the NPTs address particular hot spots and issues. However we do not record statistics in a way that makes it possible to attribute specific declines in offences.

Do you expect the downward trend in reported crime to continue as a result of further focus on prevention?

We are positive about our future strategy. Stopping someone from being a victim of crime is stopping crime from happening, which is the focus of our Prevention First strategy.