

Crime Statistics for fiscal year ending 30 June 2012

Frequently Asked Questions



October 2012

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

There were 394,522 recorded offences in the 2011-2012 fiscal year, compared with 416,324 the previous year. This represents a decrease of 5.2% or 21,802 offences.

New Zealand's resident population increased by 0.7% during that period, resulting in a 5.9% decrease in the number of offences recorded per 10,000 of population. This is the lowest number of offences in any fiscal year since 1988-1989, and the lowest crime rate per head of population since before electronic records have been maintained.

What are the decreases in crime compared to previous years?

The following offence divisions decreased in recorded offences in 2011/2012 from the previous year.

Offence division	Variance
Homicide and related offences	-21.5%
Acts intended to cause injury	-6.8%
Abduction, harassment and other related offences against a person	-10.2%
Robbery, extortion and related offences	-8.0%
Unlawful entry with intent/burglary, break and enter	-3.4%
Theft and related offences	-5.2%
Fraud, deception and related offences	-7.0%
Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	-4.1%
Property damage and environmental pollution	-9.4%
Public order offences	-3.5%
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	-9.6%

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 2011/2012	Proportion recorded
Theft and related offences	129,378	32.8%
Unlawful entry with intent/burglary, break and enter	57,351	14.5%
Property damage and environmental pollution	50,336	12.8%
Public order offences	42,733	10.8%
Acts intended to cause injury	40,646	10.3%

What are the statistics by Police District?

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

District	2010/2011	2011/2012	Variance	Variance/10,000 population
Northland	16,275	15,146	-6.9%	-7.1%
Waitemata	36,160	35,334	-2.3%	-3.8%
Auckland City	51,589	54,351	5.4%	3.8%
Counties Manukau	51,317	46,482	-9.4%	-11.1%
Waikato	35,162	34,999	-0.5%	-1.4%
Bay of Plenty	38,175	34,886	-8.6%	-9.0%
Eastern	25,644	23,909	-6.8%	-6.7%
Central	30,266	28,508	-5.8%	-6.2%
Wellington	44,262	41,366	-6.5%	-7.3%
Tasman	16,637	16,886	1.5%	0.1%
Canterbury	45,904	40,522	-11.7%	-10.0%
Southern	24,933	22,133	-11.2%	-12.2%
TOTAL	416,324	394,522	-5.2%	-5.9%

What impact did the Canterbury earthquake have on reported crime?

There was a sudden large decrease in reported theft and property damage and related offences, with less serious offences dropping the most. This may be due to people not wanting to bother police when they knew we were busy.

There was a reduction in Canterbury's unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter, which is unsurprising since many people shifting out of the CBD and Eastern areas. The District has also worked on improving Tasking and Coordination and establishing Prevention teams.

Why is there such a big increase in drug dealing and trafficking offences?

Police have been tackling the drivers of crime and targeting drug dealers, as reflected by the 72.2% increases in dealing and trafficking offences. Supply / administer / deal methamphetamine offences were up 100.6% (532 more recorded offences).

Why has crime gone up in Auckland and not in the rest of the country?

Most of the increase relates to breaches of liquor bans, which police have been proactively enforcing. Many of these breaches and a smaller increase in Disorder occurred around the time of the Rugby World Cup.

Why has the number of murders gone up?

The numbers of murders fluctuates from year to year, typically within a range of 40 to 70. In 2011-2011 New Zealand had the lowest number of murders since electronic records have been maintained.(1986-1987)

You've said that by 2014/15, you want reported crime to have reduced by 13% and the number of cases entering the justice sector pipeline to have declined by 19%. How are you tracking?

We are tracking well and remain confident we will achieve our targets which have been set by 2014/2015.

What impact are Neighbourhood Policing Teams having on the stats?

Anecdotally we know they 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 tag specific drops to NPT actions.

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

Absolutely we do. Stopping someone from being a victim of crime is stopping crime from happening, so we're very positive about reaching our crime reduction targets.