

Crime Statistics for fiscal year ending 30 June 2014
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)



October 2014

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

There were 353,564 total recorded offences in the 2014 financial year compared to 365,185 in the 2013 financial year. This is a decrease of 3.2 percent or 11,621 offences.

Where are the decreases in crime compared to previous years?

The following offence divisions decreased in recorded offences in 2013/14 from the previous year.

Offence division	Variance
Public Order offences	-25.5%
Dangerous or negligent acts	-17.8%
Homicide and Related Offences	-16.7%
Illicit Drug Offences	-10.2%
Property Damage	-10.1%
Weapons and explosives offences	-5.9%
Offences Against Justice etc.	-3.8%
Miscellaneous offences	-3.0%
Acts intended to cause injury	-3.0%

Where are the increases in crime compared to previous years?

The following offence divisions increased in recorded offences in 2013/14.

Offence division	Variance
Abduction, Harassment etc	+13.0%
Fraud, Deception and related offences	+8.7%
Robbery, Extortion and related offences	+4.6%
Theft and related offences	+4.0%
Unlawful Entry Burglary	+0.8%
Sexual Assault and related offences	+0.4%

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 2013 / 2014	Proportion recorded
Theft and related offences	122,206	34.6 %
Unlawful entry with intent/Burglary/Break and enter	51,954	14.7 %
Property Damage and Environmental Pollution	42,499	12.0%
Acts intended to cause injury	39,416	11.1 %

Public Order Offences	30,372	8.6%
Illicit drug offences	15,727	4.4 %

How do the Police Districts compare?

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

District	2012/13	2013/14	Variance	Variance / 10,000 population
Northland	15490	15657	+1.1	+0.7
Waitematā	30629	31629	+3.3	+1.6
Auckland City	45244	43002	-5.0	-6.1
Counties Manukau	44003	42774	-2.8	-4.1
Waikato	30796	31385	1.9	1.2
Bay of Plenty	33658	29734	-11.7	-11.7
Eastern	23308	22919	-1.7	-1.7
Central	27812	27626	-0.7	-0.8
Wellington	35757	35477	-0.8	-1.3
Tasman	14766	14338	-2.9	-3.0
Canterbury	42722	39064	-8.6	-10.5
Southern	21000	19959	-5.0	-5.6
TOTAL	365185	353564	-3.2	-4.1

What effect has the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act had on the crime statistics?

The large decrease in public order offences is largely attributed to the effect of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 which made the Breach of Liquor Ban offence obsolete from December 2013. Breach of liquor offending is now managed through infringement notices which are not included in official crime statistics.

In the 2012 / 13 financial year there were 9,575 offences recorded for Breach of Liquor Ban. In the 2013 / 14 financial year there were 2,730 Breach of Liquor Ban offences recorded before the new legislation came into effect.

If you remove the breach of liquor ban numbers from both sets of data there were 4,776 less criminal offences recorded in the 2013 / 14 financial year. This represents a drop of 1.3 %.

Resolution rates

In the 2013 / 2014 financial year the over-all resolution rate for criminal offending was 42.3 %. This was down from 46.7 % in the 2012 / 2013 financial year.

The lowest resolution rate is in the unlawful entry with intent / burglary / break and enter category. The 2013 / 2014 resolution rate for this offence category was 13.2 down from 14.6 % in the previous financial year.

In terms of Districts the Auckland region has the worst resolution rates for unlawful entry with intent / burglary / break and enter category. Auckland's rate is 7.5 %, Waitemata's 9.5 % and Counties Manukau's 10.9%.

For serious offences, the resolution rate remains high.

Resolution rates – What are they?

Recorded offences are counted as resolved when Police apprehend an offender and decide how to deal with him or her – eg by warning, prosecuting etc.

The resolution rate is the percentage of recorded offences that are resolved within 14 days of the end of the year being reported on. If an offence is resolved 15 days or more after the end of the year then it will not appear in official crime statistics for that or any other year. The resolution rate therefore undercounts the number of cases that police have resolved. This phenomenon has a more marked impact for some types of offences than others, such as lengthy investigations including many serial crimes, burglaries and murders.

Why have resolution rates dropped?

Our aim is to prevent crime before it happens and prevent re-offending and victimisation. We also wish to prioritise resources where they are most needed.

The low resolution rate for unlawful entry with intent / burglary / break and enter is an international problem. Solving these types of crimes is difficult which is why we are focusing on our Prevention First Strategy.

We are effectively targeting known burglars and burglary hotspots. We have increased foot patrols to be more visible in the community and we are helping victims improve their security and lessen their chances of being a repeat victim.

What effect has the Crime Reporting Line had on resolution rates?

The Crime Reporting Line assists Police in efficiently and accurately assessing and prioritising all incidents and crime reports that come to our attention. Information is recorded in a thorough and systematic way and forwarded through to the relevant District for subsequent assessment and decision making.

The introduction of the Crime Reporting line has made it easier for the public to report low level offences. These are often the hardest types of crimes to solve due to insufficient evidence and a lack of obvious lines of enquiry to pursue.

What impact has the Alternative Resolutions initiative had on these statistics?

Alternative Resolutions - including pre-charge warnings, written traffic warnings and community justice panels - is the use of warnings and discretion to resolve low level offending. However these offences are still recorded in the official crime statistics.

Why are the illicit drug numbers down so much?

Recorded Illicit drugs offences reduced by 10.2 % in 2013 / 2014, from 17,509 to 15,727 offences.

The decrease is mostly in the area of cannabis. The offences of possess/ or use/smoke illicit drugs (cannabis plant, oil, resin, seed) were down by 15.9 %. This reflects the fact that Police continue to target and employ preventive measures which focus on high end dealers, growers and suppliers rather than low end cannabis users.

Methamphetamine offences have risen by 13.6 percent. Offences for dealing or trafficking methamphetamine rose by 22 percent from 930 offences in the 2012 / 13 financial year to 1135 in the 2013 / 14 financial year. The price of methamphetamine remains high but steady, which indicates that supply is stable

Police continue to target organised criminal groups who deal in methamphetamine, disrupting their activities and seizing their cash and other proceeds of crime.

What is happening with family violence offending?

A new monthly crime dataset will soon be launched on the Statistics NZ website.

The Recorded Crime Victimisation Statistics (RCVS) will include more detailed and useful information about victims and crime including age, ethnicity, and gender of victims. They will also provide insight into demographic attributes of victims including the relationship between victim and offender. RCVS will provide better information and a more detailed picture of intimate partner violence, child assaults (physical & sexual) & elder abuse.

The new statistics are counted differently to current official statistics and are not comparable.