Recorded Crime - Offenders User Manual

2016

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FOREWORD

The New Zealand Police Data Analytics team publishes *recorded crime* statistics. These are classified as Tier-One Statistics under New Zealand's Official Statistics System.

In 2014 NZ Police introduced new Recorded Crime Victims Statistics (RCVS), to be followed in 2015 by Recorded Crime Offenders Statistics (RCOS) which replace the historic offence and apprehensions statistical collections. These new statistical collections are based on the equivalent Australian standards, managed by The National Crime Statistics Unit (NCSU) within the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). The NCSU operates under the auspices of the Australasian Police Ministers' Council, and is responsible for coordinating the production and publication of national crime statistics in Australia.

The scope of the RCVS and RCOS collections, together with the national definitions for data items and the national counting rules, were developed in consultation with the National Crime Statistics Advisory Group, the NCSU Board of Management and the Police Statisticians Group. These groups include representatives from the police forces of the states and territories of Australia. The NZ Police Chief Data Scientist is a member of the Police Statisticians Group, and the NZ Police Commissioner attends NCSU Board of Management meetings in an ex-officio capacity.

This manual has been prepared by the NZ Police Data Analytics team for users of New Zealand Recorded Crime – Offenders Statistics (NZ RCOS), to help them understand and correctly interpret statistical information in this collection. It documents the classifications and counting rules used in the collection. These give meaning to the data.

NZ RCOS is consistent with Australia's RCOS to the extent that the data allows. Specifically, the counting-rules are identical. The only differences are (a) classification differences with some of the data items in the collection, (b) some data items from Australia's RCVS and RCOS are omitted from NZ RCVS and RCOS because they are not relevant to New Zealand, and (c) NZ RCVS and RCOS contain additional data items, and greater detail on geospatial location. Additionally, Australia only publishes RCVS and RCOS data annually; New Zealand publishes every month. These differences are detailed in this manual.

To ensure statistical information is meaningful, it is also necessary to have standard documented recording rules. The Australian standard recording rules are documented in Australia's National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS), which is maintained by the NCSU. The NZ Police standard recording rules are documented in the National Recording Standard (NRS), which is maintained as a chapter of the NZ Police Manual. The NRS was heavily influenced by Australia's NCRS

The Data Analytics team wishes to thank those who have contributed to all of the above standards, which have enabled NZ Police and the New Zealand Official Statistics System to have a high quality statistical collection that is comparable with Australia.

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VERSION CONTROL

Version	Released	Contents
1.0	May 2015	Initial specification of NZ RCOS, which is similar to Australia's RCOS. Differences between these standards are identified. The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) catalogue number for RCOS is 4519.0. Statistics and descriptive information on RCOS are available from the ABS website.
1.1	November 2016	Update to reflect change from publication on Statistics NZ's website to policedata.nz. Also included minor editorial changes.

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to this Statistical Collection

Historically, crime statistics produced by individual police jurisdictions were not always comparable due to the use of different criminal codes, classification systems, recording practices, counting methodologies, practices and procedures. While it was possible within a jurisdiction to monitor trends over time, it was not possible to accurately look at differences between the various jurisdictions at a single point in time or to look at recorded crime levels or changes across different jurisdictions.

In November 1987, the Australasian Police Ministers' Council (APMC) established the National Uniform Crime Statistics (NUCS) subcommittee to investigate user requirements, identify appropriate data items, address problems of data comparability and advise on arrangements for the production and publication of national crime statistics. The APMC was interested in statistics relating to offences, victims and offenders. The work of the NUCS subcommittee culminated in the report *Measuring Crime* that was endorsed by the APMC in May 1989. The report recommended the establishment of a jointly funded National Crime Statistics Unit (NCSU) within the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) with responsibility for coordinating the production and publication of national uniform crime statistics.

In November 1990 an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) was made between the Commonwealth and the states and territories concerning the establishment of the NCSU as a National Common Police Service, with a role to initiate, co-ordinate and oversee the development and production of national uniform crime statistics. The IGA also set out the reporting requirements of the NCSU, financial provisions, and the establishment, functions and structure of the National Crime Statistics Board of Management and the National Crime Statistics Advisory Group.

Relevance to New Zealand Police

To ensure the NCSU is successful in achieving its purposes, the NCSU convenes a Police Statisticians Group (PSG) consisting of the chief statistician in each police jurisdiction. This group works with the NCSU to review standards and practices that ensure the NCSU is supplied with meaningful data for the collections it publishes.

In 2003, the New Zealand Police Statistics Manager joined the PSG, and embarked on a pathway to bringing Australian and New Zealand police statistics into alignment. Through the PSG, New Zealand Police has been able to contribute to developments in standards for Australian statistical collections, and thereby ensure they were relevant to New Zealand. As a result, when Australia developed in 2007 a National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS), New Zealand Police quickly followed in 2008 with the New Zealand Police National Recording Standard (NRS) which aligns closely with the NCRS.

In 2010, the New Zealand Justice sector adopted the Australian Standard Offence Classification (ASOC), which was subsequently renamed the Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification (ANZSOC).

In 2015, New Zealand Police introduced RCOS, which broadly aligns with Australian standards. Furthermore, the New Zealand collection goes beyond the Australian standards, in that it provides greater detail, and publication is more frequent and timely than RCOS in Australia.

This initiative responds to recommendations in the Review of Crime and Criminal Justice Statistics (2009), and is part of a broad review of Tier-1 Statistics that was led by Statistics New Zealand, culminating in cabinet approval in 2012.

1.2 Purpose of this Manual

The primary objective of this manual is to assist users to understand the content and meaning of data in the collection.

1.3 Further Assistance

The NZ Police Data Analytics team acknowledges that this collection provides a wealth and complexity of information. Where difficulties arise please contact the Data Analytics team.

For queries relating to the content or use of this manual, please contact the Data Analytics team (contact details below).

1.4 Data Analytics Team Contact Details

Enquiries	Data Analytics team service desk Police National Headquarters 180 Molesworth Street PO Box 3017, Wellington 6140 New Zealand	Ph: (04) 4602999 Email: data@police.govt.nz

1.5 Key Dates

Data in the RCOS collection includes both court and non-court proceedings by Police against alleged offenders, where the initial proceeding decision was made by Police on or after 1 July 2014

NZ RCOS includes two types of populations: **proceedings** and **unique offenders**. The term 'population' refers to what is being counted. 'Proceedings' count each instance of an offender being proceeded against by Police for one or more offences; the 'unique offenders' population only counts each offender once irrespective of how many times they have been proceeded against during the reference period.

Publication of the **proceedings** population commenced in May 2015. However, publication of the **unique offenders** populations commenced July 2015, as it was necessary to accumulate data for a 12 month period to avoid under-count.

Data are extracted on the eighth day of each month about proceedings up to the end of the preceding month.

Data are published on policedata.nz on the last working day of every month.

1.6 Policy for Revising Recorded Crime – Offenders Statistics

For infrequently published statistics that are published many weeks or months after the end of the period being reported on, it is common practice not to update previously published figures unless there has been a significant change in data relating to that period. This practice is not followed for NZ RCOS.

NZ RCOS is published every month within one month of the end of the period being reported on. This is possible because the publication process is largely automated, and because associated recording and counting standards are designed to ensure data become relatively stable quickly. Because of the level of detail in the collection and the frequency of publication, it is impractical to implement an ad-hoc adjustment mechanism. Instead, the latest available data are published every month, replacing figures for previously published periods. NZ RCOS will always contain the latest available data for every period.

CHAPTER 2: RECORDED CRIME – OFFENDERS FRAMEWORK

2.1 Scope and Coverage

The RCOS collection counts all alleged offenders recorded by NZ Police as prescribed in the NZ Police National Recording Standard (NRS), who have been proceeded against by police during the reference period.

Differences between Australian and New Zealand Standards
The relevant Australian and New Zealand standards apply identical counting rules. However, some differences exist. Australia's RCOS differs from NZ RCOS in the following ways:

- Australia's RCOS excludes alleged offenders less than 10 years of age;

- Australia's RCOS excludes alleged offenders that are organisations;

- NZ RCOS includes a broader range of offences;

- NZ RCOS includes a number of additional data items not found in Australia's RCOS;

- Although classifications for data items have been harmonised, some differences exist. These are explained in Section 3, together with the description of each data item.

The NZ RCOS collection includes all types of offences, specifically:

- substantive offences (e.g. robbery, breach of protection order);

- attempted offences (e.g. attempted robbery).

- aid and abet offences;

- conspiracy offences.

Exclusions
The scope of the NZ RCOS collection excludes the following offences:

- offences that Police are able to deal with by issuing an infringement notice;

- offences that come under the authority of agencies other than NZ Police, such as Customs, Worksafe New Zealand, Inland Revenue, ACC, Ministry for Primary Industries, etc.

'Offence' refers to any act or omission by a person/organisation or persons/organisations for which a penalty could be imposed by the New Zealand legal system. Offences in this collection are defined by the 2011 edition of the Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification (ANZSOC).

In the context of the Recorded Crime - Offenders collection, the following key definitions apply:

'*Offender'* refers to a person or organisation Police apprehend because Police allege the person or organisation is involved in a criminal incident involving one or more offences.

'*Proceeding*' refers to a legal action initiated against an alleged offender for an offence(s). Police proceedings represent a count for each separate occasion on which police initiate a legal action against an offender. Each proceeding is classified to a principal offence and principal method of proceeding. It does not represent a count of offences.

A range of data items related to demographic information about an offender is also collected. Chapter 3 contains details about each of the data items.

2.2 Populations in RCOS

RCOS consists of two types of population:

> the **proceeding** population

> the **unique offender** populations

The **proceeding** population is the measure involving counting a person once on each day they are proceeded against by police in the reference period, whether by court or non-court action.

The **unique offender** populations are measures involving counting a person once in a given reference period regardless of how many times they may have been dealt with by police, whether by court or non-court action.

The data for both populations is updated on the last working day of every month.

See Chapter 4 for further information on these populations, including counting rules and principal offence derivation rules for each population.

CHAPTER 3: DATA ITEMS

3.1 Data Records

The following table lists the published data items in the NZ RCOS collection. Detailed information on the data items follows in sections 3.2 to 3.9.

Data Item
Month and Year
Police Boundary
Offence
Age
Sex
ROV
Ethnicity
Method of Proceeding

3.2 Month and Year

Description

For the proceeding population, this is the year and month of the **date of action**: the date that the offender was proceeded against by Police (e.g. date of charge and bail/remand, date of charge and summons).

For the offenders population, this is the last month of the 12-month reference period during which the offender was proceeded against by Police.

Classification Structure

Year/Month (e.g. 2014/07)

Differences between Australian and NZ Standards

Australia's RCOS data is annual, monthly data is not currently available.

3.3 Police Boundary

Description

The Police Boundary geospatial hierarchy identifies the geographical location of the scene of an offence in terms of Police District and Police Area. There are twelve Police Districts within New Zealand. The Police Area is the second level in the hierarchy.

Classification Structure

Police District	Police Area
Auckland City District	Auckland Central Area
	Auckland East Area
	Auckland West Area
Bay of Plenty District	Eastern Bay of Plenty Area
	Rotorua Area
	Taupo Area
	Western Bay of Plenty Area
Canterbury District	Canterbury Metro Area
	Mid / South Canterbury Area
Central District	Manawatu Area
	Taranaki Area
	Whanganui Area
Counties/Manukau District	Counties Manukau Central Area
	Counties Manukau East Area
	Counties Manukau South Area
	Counties Manukau West Area
Eastern District	Hawkes Bay Area
	Tairawhiti Area
Northland District	Far North Area
	Whangarei Area
Southern District	Otago Coastal Area
	Otago Lakes Central Area
	Southland Area
Tasman District	Marlborough Area
	Nelson Bays Area
	West Coast Area
Waikato District	Hamilton City Area
	Waikato East Area
	Waikato West Area
Waitemata District	Auckland Motorways Area
	North Shore Area
	Rodney Area
	Waitakere Area
Wellington District	Hutt Valley Area
	Kapiti-Mana Area
	Wairarapa Area
	Wellington Area
Not Specified	Not Specified

Differences between Australian and NZ Standards

This hierarchy appears in the NZ data collection only.

3.4 Offence

Description

The nature of the offence is described using the ANZSOC Group classification, a four digit code which groups offences into a hierarchy of related categories. The first two digits divide offences into broad categories known as divisions, and the third and fourth digits identify an offence more precisely within those divisions. Documentation on the ANZSOC hierarchy can be found at http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/1234.0/ .

Classification Structure

Offences categorised in the following ANZSOC divisions[1] are within scope:

01	Homicide and related offences
02	Acts intended to cause injury
03	Sexual assault and related offences
04	Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons
05	Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person
06	Robbery, extortion and related offences
07	Unlawful entry with intent/burglary, break and enter
08	Theft and related offences
09	Fraud, deception and related offences
10	Illicit drug offences
11	Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences
12	Property damage and environmental pollution
13	Public order offences
14	Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences
15	Offences against government procedures, government security and government operations
16	Miscellaneous offences

The full list of ANZSOC Groups can be found at
http://www.ausstats.abs.gov.au/ausstats/subscriber.nsf/0/5CE97E870F7A29EDCA2578A200143125/$File/12340_2011
.pdf

Differences between Australian and NZ Standards

The Australian data collection excludes ANZSOC division 14 – Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences.

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[1] ANZSOC group is the lowest level of categorical grouping of offences within the ANZSOC offence hierarchy. The ANZSOC hierarchy order is Division, Sub-Division, Group. Documentation on the ANZSOC hierarchy can be found at http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/1234.0

3.5 Age

Description

The age group of the offender at the date of first proceeding. Ages are grouped into five year bands.

Classification structure

Age Code	Age Group
0	0 - 4 years inclusive
...	...
75	75 - 79 years inclusive
Any multiple of five indicates a five year range starting at that number, except for 80 which indicates 80 and over.	
80	80 years or over
88	Not Applicable (This can be used where the offender is an Organisation.)
99	Not Specified (includes Unknown and Not Stated/Inadequately Described)

Missing values

This field is set to 99 where the age of the offender is unknown.

Differences between Australian and NZ Standards

The Australian data collection includes single year of age for youth offenders and places all victims aged 65 and over in a single group.

3.6 Sex

Description

The criterion used in classifying the sex of an offender is the biological characteristics of the person. An offender should have the same sex for each of their associated records in the dataset.

Classification Structure

Sex is classified as one of four categories. In addition to 'Male' and 'Female', there is a 'Not Applicable' category for where the offender may be an organisation, and a 'Not Stated/Inadequately Described' category for instances where the Sex is unknown or indeterminate.

Code	Sex
1	Male
2	Female
3	Not Applicable
9	Not stated / Inadequately described.

Missing values

All missing values for "sex" have a code of 9.

Differences between Australian and NZ Standards

None.

3.7 Relationship of Offender to Victim

Description

The Relationship of Offender to Victim (ROV) represents the relationship

- from the perspective of the victim, and

- at the time of the offence, not at the date of apprehension or proceeding.

So, Parent assaults child is recorded as ROV 112 - Parent.

Classification Structure

The classification contains three levels: ROV Division, ROV Subdivision, and ROV Group. ROV Divisions are the broadest categories in the classification and ROV Groups the most specific.

ROV Division	ROV Sub division	ROV Group	Relationship
1			**KNOWN TO VICTIM**
	10	100	KNOWN TO VICTIM; N.F.D.
	11		FAMILY MEMBER
		110	Family member; n.f.d.
		111	Partner
		112	Parent / Step parent
		113	Child / stepchild
		114	Sibling
		115	Boy / Girlfriend
		118	Parent or Child; undetermined
		119	Other relative n.e.c.
	12		NON FAMILY MEMBER
		120	Non family member; n.f.d.
		121	Ex-Partner
		122	Ex-Boy / Girlfriend
		129	Known to each other n.e.c.
2	20	200	**STRANGER**
4	40	400	**NO OFFENDER IDENTIFIED (NO LINK)**
8	80	800	**NOT APPLICABLE**
9	90	999	**NOT STATED / INADEQUATELY DESCRIBED**

Note: n.f.d. = not further defined; n.e.c. = not elsewhere classified.

Notes

Groups 111 and 121 are used for couples who are, or have been, living together; Groups 115 and 122 are used for couples who are not living together and have not done so in the past. Group 118 is documented in Chapter 6 below.

Missing values

All missing values for ROV Group are set to 999.

Differences between Australian and NZ Standards

In Australia the victim of Motor Vehicle Theft is regarded as the vehicle, so the ROV in such cases is 800 - Not

Applicable. In NZ the victim is regarded as the owner of the vehicle, so ROV is populated accordingly.

NZ Police record as an offender any person or organisation that Police apprehend for an offence. In Australia, ROV information is initially recorded as the relationship as perceived by the victim at the time of the offence, with some jurisdictions updating this data item as the investigation progresses.

3.8 Ethnicity

Description

The ethnic group of the offender, where possible self-identified by the offender, as recorded by Police.

Classification Structure

Ethnicity is classified by using one of the categories below.

Values

Code	Ethnicity
11	African
12	Asian
13	European
14	Indian
15	Latin American/Hispanic
16	Maori
17	Middle Eastern
18	Pacific Island
19	Organisation
79	Not Elsewhere Classified
88	Not Applicable
99	Not Stated / Inadequately Described

Missing values

All missing values for Ethnicity are set to 99. This may include both persons and organisations.

Differences between Australian and NZ Standards

This data item appears in the NZ data collection only.

3.9 Method of Proceeding

Description

The method of proceeding describes the first type of legal action (court or non-court) initiated by police against a person as a result of an investigation of an offence(s). See for instance http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup/4519.0Appendix32012-13 .

Classification Structure

The classification contains two levels: Division and Code. Divisions are the broader categories in the classification and NCSU Codes are more specific

Values

Division	Code	Method of proceeding description
1		COURT ACTION
	140	Charge and offer Diversion
	190	Court action n.e.c.
2		NON-COURT ACTION
	200	Non-court action, n.f.d.
	210	Informal warning
	220	Formal warning
	230	Non-court referred Conference
	290	Non-court action n.e.c.
3		NOT PROCEEDED WITH
	300	Not proceeded with
9		UNKNOWN
	999	Unknown

Note: n.f.d. = not further defined; n.e.c. = not elsewhere classified.

140 - Charge and offer Diversion

A person is charged but Police determine that, because of the circumstances and the nature of the offence, the offender may be offered diversion instead of prosecution.

190 - Court action, not elsewhere classified

A police action against a person to facilitate their court appearance to answer charges, not elsewhere classified (in particular, diversion was not offered).

200 - Non-court action, not further defined

A non-court or diversionary action against a person by police in relation to criminal conduct, not further defined.

210 - Informal warning

A person is proceeded against by the administration of an informal or verbal warning that engaging in certain conduct is against the law, that there are various sanctions that can be applied by the police to prevent and punish such conduct, and the person must cease the offending behaviour. Informal warnings are not officially recorded.

220 - Formal warning

A person is proceeded against by the administration of a formal or written warning that engaging in certain conduct is against the law and that there are various sanctions that can be applied by the police to prevent and punish such conduct, and the person must cease the offending behaviour. Formal warnings are officially recorded.

230 - Non-court referred Conference

A (youth) offender is dealt with by a family group conference.

290 - Non-court action, not elsewhere classified

A non-court action against a person, other than those defined above.

300 - Not proceeded with

A police action against a person is not proceeded with. For instance, further investigation may be pending, or action may be halted because the person is deceased.

999- Unknown

Missing values

Not applicable.

Differences between Australian and NZ Standards

A number of methods of proceeding are used in NZ but not Australia and vice versa. See Chapter 6 below.

CHAPTER 4: POPULATION DERIVATION

4.1 Proceeding Population

Counting rule for the proceeding population

A person or organisation may be proceeded against for multiple offences and with multiple types of methods of proceeding on a single day.

Counting rule: Count one person/organisation each day they are proceeded against by court and non-court action.

Principal offence derivation rules for the proceeding population

To derive the proceeding population, records are consolidated to represent a single Proceeding ID by applying the following rules:

- Where a single offence is processed on a single date, that offence is the principal offence.

- Where multiple offences are processed on a single date, one offence is selected as the principal offence.

- The selection of the principal offence is determined by the relative rankings of the offences (coded to the ANZSOC), as assigned by the National Offence Index (NOI). The NOI is applied to all offences processed and the offence with the highest ranking (i.e. with the ranking closest to 1) is selected as the principal offence.

Where one or more of the ANZSOC codes are not ranked in the NOI, the following rules apply:

- If homicide offences are included, select the first recorded as the principal offence.

- Otherwise, if sexual assault offences are included, select the first recorded as the principal offence.

- Otherwise, if one or more offences are proceeded against by court action, and all of these are ranked in the NOI, select the first recorded of the highest NOI ranked offences as the principal offence.

- Otherwise if one or more offences are proceeded against by court action, but one or more are not ranked in the NOI, select the first recorded offence as the principal offence irrespective of whether it is ranked in the NOI.

- Otherwise, if all offences are proceeded against by non-court action, and all of these are ranked in the NOI, select the first recorded of the highest NOI ranked offences as the principal offence.

- Otherwise if all offences are proceeded against by non-court action, but one or more are not ranked in the NOI, select the first recorded offence as the principal offence irrespective of whether it is ranked in the NOI.

Note: The majority of ANZSOC codes are ranked in the NOI, however those that are not ranked are typically at the ANZSOC division or subdivision level.

The principal method of proceeding is the one associated with the principal offence.

4.2 Unique Offender Population

Counting rule for the unique offender population

The Unique Person/Organisation ID uniquely identifies an offender during the reference period and enables the derivation of the unique offender population. An offender may be proceeded against for multiple offences with multiple methods of proceeding on multiple dates of action during the reference period. All of these data records will have the same Unique Person/Organisation ID.

Counting rule: Count an offender once within the reference period regardless of how many times they may have been proceeded against by police during the reference period.

Derivation rules for the unique offender population

To derive the unique offender population, records strings are consolidated to represent a single Unique Person/Organisation ID. The derivation rules for the selection of a principal offence and principal method of proceeding are the same as for the proceeding population, however they are applied to all records associated with a Unique Person/Organisation ID. Data items for a Unique Person/Organisation ID are the ones associated with the principal offence.

CHAPTER 5: GLOSSARY

Age

The age of an offender at the date of the offence.

ABS

Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification (ANZSOC)

The ANZSOC (previously known as the Australian Standard Offence Classification or ASOC) is a hierarchical classification developed by the ABS for use in the collection and publication of crime and justice statistics. It provides a classificatory framework for the comparison of statistics on offences across Australia. Within the classificatory structure of ANZSOC, Divisions represent the broadest categories of offences. The Subdivision and Group levels provide increasingly detailed dissections of the broad categories. The 2011 version of ANZSOC (ABS cat. no. 1234.0) is used to classify offence data for the 2011-12 collection.

Date of action

The date that a person is proceeded against by police (e.g. date of charge and bail/remand, date formally cautioned).

Informant

Based on the NZ Police National Recording standard. The informant is the person who reported the offence to Police.

Method of proceeding

The method of proceeding describes the type of legal action (court or non-court) initiated by police against a person as a result of an investigation of an offence.

National Offence Index (NOI)

The National Offence Index, or NOI, is a seriousness ranking of the ANZSOC codes that is used to determine a principal offence where a person is proceeded against for more than one offence type. Offences are allocated a ranking and the highest ranking offence (i.e. ranking closest to 1) is selected as the principal offence. The 2009 version of the NOI will be used for the 2011-12 collection cycle.

Offence

Any act or omission by a person or persons for which a penalty could be imposed by the legal system. For court methods of proceeding the offence is the charge, as initially recorded by police.

Offender

A person apprehended by police for an offence.

Principal method of proceeding

Where a person has been proceeded against with more than one method of proceeding, rules are applied to determine the main, or principal, method of proceeding for that person. The principal method of proceeding is

the one associated with the principal offence for which a person is proceeded against.

Principal offence

The offence category, based on the ANZSOC, that describes the most serious offence type that a person has been proceeded against by police during the reference period. The Principal offence is primarily determined by the rankings in the NOI.

Proceeding population

The measure involving counting a person on each day they are proceeded against by police, whether by court or non-court action.

Sex

The sex of a person, as recorded by police, is determined by their biological characteristics.

Unique offender population

The measure involving counting a person or organisation once in the reference period regardless of how many times they may have been proceeded against by police, whether by court or non-court action.

Unique person/organisation identifier

This uniquely identifies an offender and enables the derivation of the unique offender population.

CHAPTER 6: DIFFERENCES IN RCOS BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

This chapter details differences between RCOS in Australia and RCOS in New Zealand. Most of these differences relate to additional information being included in RCOS in New Zealand.

The counting-rules applied in New Zealand RCOS are identical to those applied in Australia's RCOS. Furthermore, most of the data items in Australia's RCOS are identical in New Zealand RCOS.

This chapter is divided into the following sections:

- 6.1 discusses data items in Australia's RCOS that differ from those in New Zealand RCOS

- 6.2 details additional data items in the New Zealand RCOS statistical collection

- 6.3 details data items in Australia's RCOS that do not appear from those in New Zealand RCOS

- 6.4 details additional data items in the data-set behind New Zealand RCOS, but that are excluded from the publicly available RCOS collection in order to protect privacy of individuals

- 6.5 discusses differences in the principal offence derivation rule

6.1 Differing data items

Month and Year (3.2)
Australia's RCOS data is annual, monthly data is not currently available.

Offence (3.4)
The Australian data collection excludes ANZSOC division 14 – Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences.

Age (3.5)
The Australian collection includes single year of age for youth offenders and places all victims aged 65 and over in a single group.

ROV (3.7)
When the relationship "Parent" or "Child" is recorded, the relative ages of the victim and offender are used wherever possible to confirm whether the offender is the victim's parent (ROV Group 112) or the victim's child (113). If the age of one or both is unknown, and thus the relationship cannot be confirmed, ROV Group is set to 118. This Group includes both birth parents and step parents.

Method of Proceeding (3.9)
A number of methods of proceeding are recorded in Australia but not NZ:

Method of Proceeding Description	Australia	NZ
Court action n.f.d.	100	100
Charge and bail/remand	110	
Charge and summons	120	
Charge and offer Diversion		140
Other court action n.e.c.	190	190
Non-court action n.f.d.	200	200
(Informal caution or) informal warning	210	210
(Formal caution or) formal warning	220	220
Conference	230	230

Method of Proceeding Description	Australia	NZ
Counselling (includes drug diversion schemes)	240	
Penalty notices	250	
Other non-court actions, n.e.c.	290	290
Not proceeded with		300
Not stated	999	
Unknown		999

6.2 Additional data items in NZ RCOS

The following data items are in the NZ RCOS data collection but not the Australian data collection:

Police Boundary
Ethnicity

6.3 Data items not in NZ RCOS

The following data items are in the Australian RCOS data collection but not the NZ data collection:

State
Indigenous Status

6.4 Data items not publicly disclosed

For reasons of confidentiality, under the Privacy Act 1993, these items are not disclosed in Tier 1 statistics:

Unique Person / Organisation ID
Name
Date of Birth

6.5 Principal offence derivation

The proceeding population principal offence derivation applied to the NZ data collection always resolves to a specific offence.

In this respect, it differs slightly from the Australian one, where if both (a) multiple offences are proceeded against on the same day; and (b) some but not all of those offences have a NOI ranking, a proceeding is assigned a principal offence of 'unknown'.