

New Recorded Crime Offenders Statistics **RCOS**

Counting the offenders behind the crimes

What is RCOS?

Police have introduced a new dataset of crime statistics with better and more detailed information about offenders.

The Recorded Crime Offenders Statistics (RCOS) will count how many times Police take action against offenders. Their demographic data and relationship to their victims will also be recorded.

The statistics will provide new information about offenders and help build a complete picture of crime and offending in New Zealand.

Why have Police developed these statistics?

The new RCOS dataset will help Police and the community more fully understand who is committing crime, where the offending is occurring and the type of action taken against offenders. RCOS contains new information that wasn't available under the old counting methods.

The new statistics will address recommendations made by Statistics NZ in their review of justice statistics in 2009. They also align to the Government's drive for government departments to be open and transparent.

The RCOS will bring Police into line with the way other countries, including the UK and Australia, report their official statistics.

What's new?

The RCOS provide detail about:

- » The relationship between the offender and victim, ie intimate partners, parent, sibling, friend, caregiver, stranger.
- » The action taken against the offender (ie charges, warning, diversion, Family Group Conference etc).
- » Serious traffic offending.

What are the benefits?

The RCOS will be published monthly, providing a frequent and up-to-date picture of offending in our communities.

The RCOS makes use of better technology for recording and reporting information about offenders and their victims. This means a new level of information will be publicly available and will give everyone a better picture of the harm crime causes.

The statistics will provide better information on offenders and will help Police prioritise staff and resources.

The new information will help other agencies and NGOs formulate policy.

The RCOS are open data and can be used by anyone with an interest in crime statistics.

What exactly **do** they count?

The new dataset counts actions taken against offenders (ie charges laid, warning, diversion, Family Group Conference etc). They count each separate occasion on which Police take action against an offender.

An offender can be an individual or an organisation such as a business. People and organisations can be separated for analytical purposes.

What they **don't** count

- » Offences that can be dealt with by infringement notices;
- » Offences dealt with by other enforcement agencies.

How often will they be published?

The new dataset will be published monthly.

Where can I find them?

RCOS will be published on **policedata.nz**

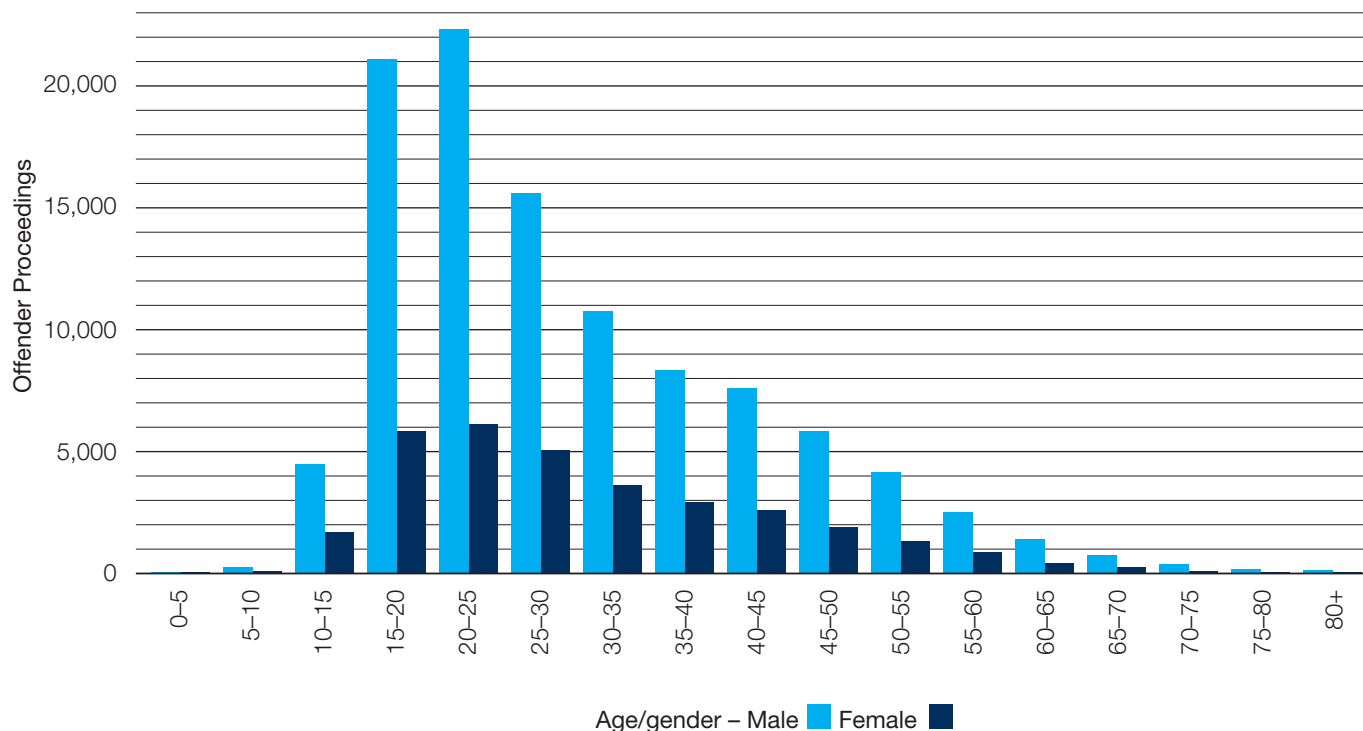
What about the old crime statistics?

The new offender statistics will be published every month in conjunction with their companion dataset, the Recorded Crime Victims Statistics (RCVS).

Together, the RCOS and the RCVS provide a more frequent, detailed and complete picture of crime.

The old twice-yearly crime statistics were published for the last time in April 2015.

Offender proceedings by age/gender (example only)



RCOS at a glance

OLD APPREHENSION STATISTICS	RCOS	IMPACT
Limited information on family violence.	Includes relationship between offender and victim.	<i>Provides information on intimate partner violence, child assaults (physical and sexual) and elder abuse.</i>
Included a count for every offence an offender was linked to, even if they were only apprehended once for several offences that occurred during one incident.	Counts the most serious offence for which action is taken against the offender on a given day.	<i>Trends over time more stable, less sensitive to variations in recording practices and in line with international best practice.</i>
Apprehensions were counted based on when the offence occurred, and if historic, were not counted at all.	Most serious offence is counted for each offender acted against, whether historic or recent, because counts are based on when the offender is dealt with.	<i>Provides a more comprehensive picture of offenders.</i>

Offender ethnicity (example only)

