

New Recorded Crime Victims Statistics **RCVS**

Counting the victims behind the crimes

What are RCVS?

Police are introducing a new data-set of crime statistics with far better, more detailed information about victims.

The Recorded Crime Victims Statistics (RCVS) will count how many times Police receive reports of crimes that have a victim. These statistics will provide new information about victims and a more complete picture of who is affected by crime in New Zealand.

Why have Police developed these statistics?

The new victim data-set reflects the importance NZ Police places on victims. We are an organisation that puts victims at the centre of what we do. The RCVS will provide both Police and the public with more useful information about victims than we had before.

The new statistics address recommendations made by Statistics NZ in their review of justice statistics in 2009. They also align to the Government's stated intent that government departments are open and transparent.

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

What new information do RCVS tell me?

They provide detail about:

- » The age, gender and ethnicity of victims
- » The relationship between the victim and offender, i.e. intimate partners, parent, sibling, friend, caregiver, stranger.

What are the benefits?

The RCVS will be published more frequently to provide an up-to-date picture of victimisations in our communities.

The RCVS makes use of better technology for recording and reporting information about victims. This means a new level of information will be publicly available and will give everyone a better picture of crime and the harm it is causing in our communities.

They tell us which sections of the community are experiencing the most victimisation and will help Police to prioritise staff and resources.

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

The RCVS can be used by anyone with an interest in crime statistics.

What exactly do they count?

The new data-set shows reported *victimisations*, which is different from *offences*. They count the number of reports received of crimes that have a victim (e.g. assault, burglary, theft, etc.).

A victim can be a person or an organisation such as a business. People and organisations can be separated out from one another for analytical purposes.

What they **don't** count

- » Offences dealt with by infringement notices
- » Victimisations/offences dealt with by other enforcement agencies
- » Offences that do not have specific identifiable victims (e.g. drugs, public order offences).

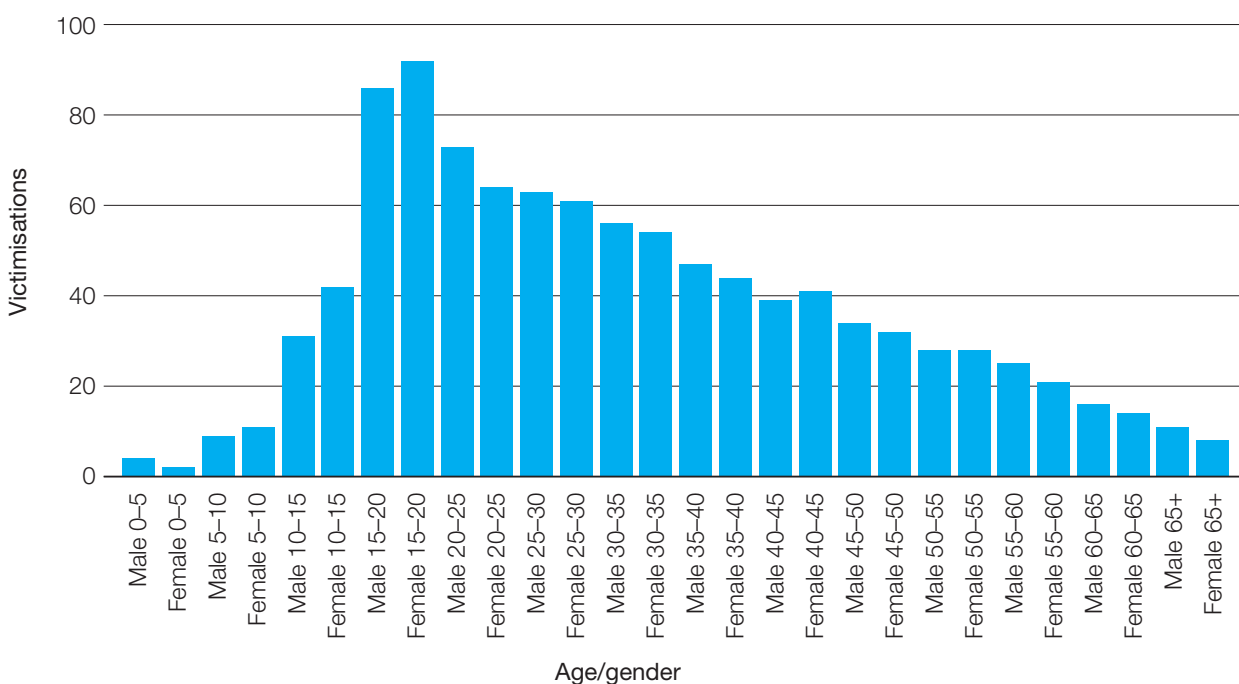
Where can I find them?

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

What about the existing crime statistics?

The RCVS and RCOS together will provide a more frequent, detailed and complete picture of crime than the current statistics. When both data-sets are operational and embedded, they will replace the current twice-yearly crime statistics. The last release of the current crime statistics is likely to be April 2015.

Total victimisations by age/gender

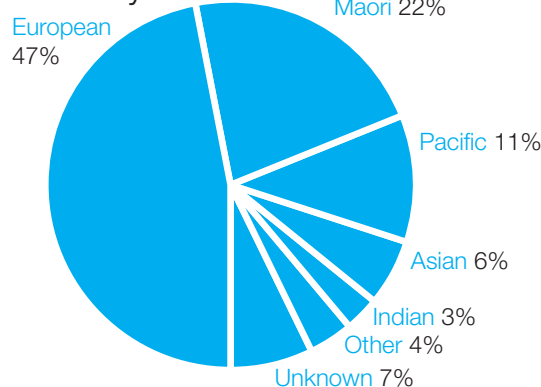


This graph is an example of the way RCVS data can be displayed but is not indicative of victimisation data which has been recorded by Police.

RCVS at a glance

EXISTING CRIME STATISTICS	RCVS	IMPACT
No information on victims	Includes age, ethnicity, and gender of victims	<i>Provides insight into demographic attributes of victims</i>
No information on family violence	Includes relationship between victim and offender	<i>Provides information on intimate partner violence, child assaults (physical & sexual) & elder abuse</i>
Excludes offences where police decide to take no further action beyond initial attendance	Includes a count for all criminal incidents	<i>E.g. If police attend a minor offence then get called to a more urgent matter so decide to take no further action, in official statistics the minor offence would not be counted; in RCVS it will count a victimization for the minor offence</i>
Includes both offences that actually occurred AND offences recorded for charging purposes only	Only includes offences that actually occurred	<i>E.g. If a charge is filed, then withdrawn and another charge is filed instead, official crime statistics would count 2; the RCVS will count 1 victimisation</i>
Offences that have more than one victim only count once	Each victim for an offence is counted	<i>Provides a more comprehensive picture of the impact of crime</i>
Every offence within a criminal incident is counted	For each criminal incident, only the most serious offence of a given type against a victim is counted	<i>E.g. If on one day, someone reports to police that items had been stolen from them 3 days in a row, official crime statistics would count 3 offences; the RCVS will count 1 victimisation.</i> <i>Or, if on one day, someone reports to police that they had been burgled and assaulted; the RCVS will count 2 victimisations because the two offences are from different crime divisions.</i>

Ethnicity



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