

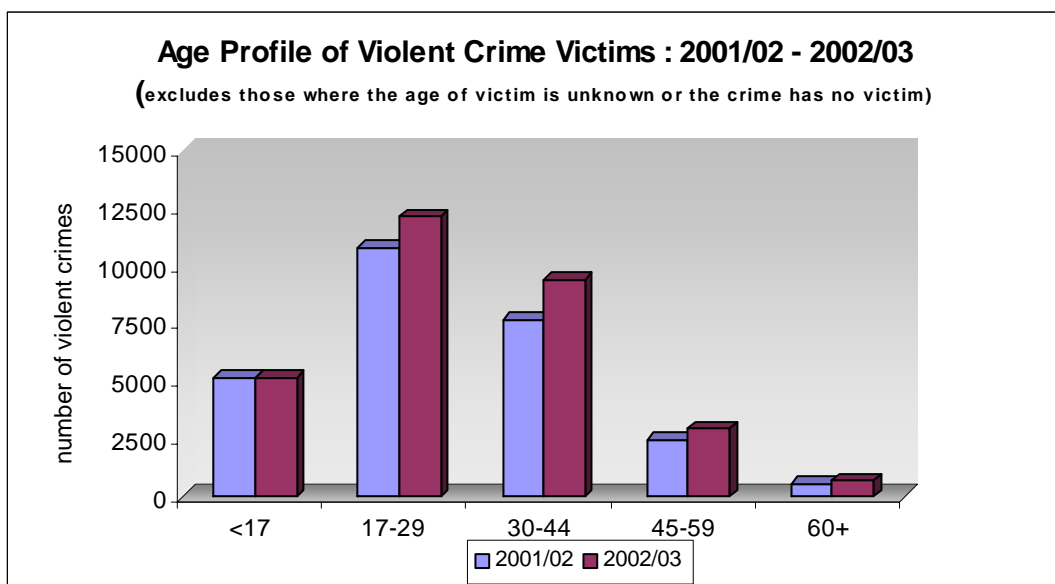
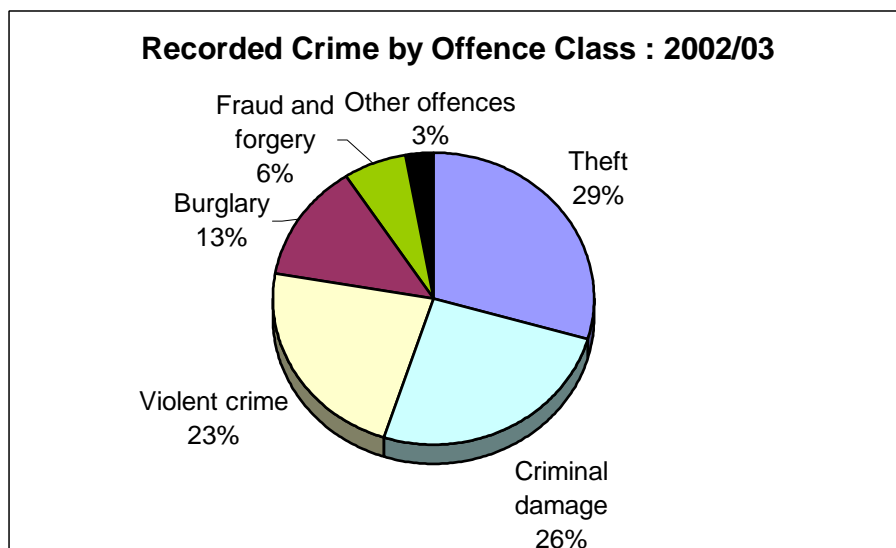
Recorded Crime in Northern Ireland : 2002/03

Summary: A total of 142,496 offences were recorded during 2002/03 compared with 139,786 in 2001/02. This represents an increase of 1.9%. The overall clearance rate was 23.0%, 2.9 percentage points higher than that achieved in the previous year.

Introduction of National Crime Recording Standard: On 1st April 2002 a new National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) was introduced by the Home Office with the dual aim of promoting greater consistency between police forces in relation to crime recording and to ensure a more victim orientated approach to the recording of crime. Whilst the NCRS became a requirement during 2002/03, its main objectives were largely met within the PSNI during 2001/02 through improved effectiveness in crime recording that resulted from the introduction of the Integrated Crime Information System (ICIS).

Changes in the Recording of Vehicle Offences: Thefts from motor vehicles increased by 556 (8.4%) while offences of vehicle tampering/interference increased by 3,071 (137.8%). In contrast the number of 'theft/ unauthorised taking' offences decreased by 3,225 (down 27.7%). The figures relating to these last two offence types are somewhat misleading as in April 2002 a change in the rules for recording crime meant that most crimes previously recorded as attempted 'theft/unauthorised taking' of a vehicle are now recorded as vehicle tampering/interference. Hence the decrease in the former is matched by a similar level of increase in latter.

Substantive offences of 'theft/unauthorised taking' of a motor vehicle (i.e. where the vehicle was actually taken or stolen as opposed to attempts being made to do so) were unaffected by the change in crime recording and therefore present a more meaningful indication of changes in the level of this type of crime. Such offences decreased by 688 (down 7.6%) from 9,005 in 2001/02 to 8,317 in 2002/03.



Notifiable Offences Recorded and Cleared 2001/02 and 2002/03

	2001/02			2002/03 ¹		
	Total Offences Recorded	Total Offences Cleared	% Clearance Rate	Total Offences Recorded	Total Offences Cleared	% Clearance Rate
Offences against the person (class 1)						
Murder	49	29	59.2	42	28	66.7
Manslaughter	3	6	200.0	3	0	0
Infanticide	0	0	0	0	0	0
Attempted murder	164	47	28.7	235	68	28.9
Threat or conspiracy to murder	740	406	54.9	898	497	55.3
Causing death by dangerous driving	23	10	43.5	31	30	96.8
Wounding with intent/GBH with intent	410	115	28.0	475	166	34.9
Wounding/GBH/AOABH	6,097	1,913	31.4	5,795	2,142	37.0
Aggravated assault	941	608	64.6	1,486	979	65.9
Common assault	13,971	6,924	49.6	14,619	7,681	52.5
Assault on police	1,563	1,222	78.2	1,951	1,621	83.1
Obstructing police	491	409	83.3	878	795	90.5
Intimidation	816	79	9.7	1,186	122	10.3
Harassment	499	316	63.3	562	389	69.2
Explosives offences endangering life	85	10	11.8	64	7	10.9
Firearms offences endangering life	113	43	38.1	111	46	41.4
Other offences against the person	139	52	37.4	119	47	39.5
Totals	26,104	12,189	46.7	28,455	14,618	51.4
Sexual offences (class 2)						
Rape	252	131	52.0	317	143	45.1
Attempted rape	40	18	45.0	40	25	62.5
Buggery	27	17	63.0	45	28	62.2
Unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under 14 years	6	4	66.7	1	2	200.0
Unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl 14 years and under 17 years	36	19	52.8	43	22	51.2
Indecent assault on a female	280	112	40.0	231	110	47.6
Indecent assault on a female child	308	183	59.4	284	173	60.9
Indecent assault on a male	34	16	47.1	34	18	52.9
Indecent assault on a male child	55	48	87.3	84	47	56.0
Indecency between males	5	5	100.0	15	3	20.0
Indecent exposure	333	90	27.0	289	73	25.3
Indecent conduct towards a child	23	14	60.9	33	16	48.5
Other sexual offences	32	14	43.8	53	25	47.2
Totals	1,431	671	46.9	1,469	685	46.6
Burglary (class 3)						
Domestic Burglary (Total)	9,064	876	9.7	10,125	987	9.7
Burglary in a dwelling	8,971	839	9.4	10,042	962	9.6
Aggravated burglary in a dwelling	93	37	39.8	83	25	30.1
Non-Domestic Burglary (Total)	7,926	745	9.4	8,409	754	9.0
Burglary in a building other than a dwelling	7,916	743	9.4	8,405	752	8.9
Aggravated burglary other than in a dwelling	10	2	20.0	4	2	50.0
Going equipped	153	133	86.9	125	104	83.2
Totals	17,143	1,754	10.2	18,659	1,845	9.9
Robbery (class 4)						
Robbery	815	117	14.4	894	107	12.0
Armed robbery	1,191	159	13.4	1,375	200	14.5
Hijacking	216	28	13.0	228	27	11.8
Totals	2,222	304	13.7	2,497	334	13.4

Notifiable Offences Recorded and Cleared 2001/02 and 2002/03 – Continued

	2001/02			2002/03 ¹		
	Total Offences Recorded	Total Offences Cleared	% Clearance Rate	Total Offences Recorded	Total Offences Cleared	% Clearance Rate
Theft (class 5)						
Theft, one person from another	1,534	73	4.8	1,624	84	5.2
Theft in a dwelling	853	186	21.8	896	205	22.9
Theft by an employee	275	150	54.5	367	221	60.2
Theft of pedal cycles	1,000	45	4.5	815	44	5.4
Shoplifting	5,494	2,581	47.0	5,075	2,690	53.0
Theft from motor vehicles	6,584	151	2.3	7,140	240	3.4
Theft or unauthorised taking of motor vehicles	11,635	996	8.6	8,410	932	11.1
comprised of: substantive offences ²	9,005	835	9.3	8,317	875	10.5
attempted offences ³	2,630	161	6.1	93	57	61.3
Vehicle tampering/interference ³	2,229	45	2.0	5,300	201	3.8
Handling of stolen goods	283	221	78.1	317	266	83.9
Other thefts	11,833	1,037	8.8	11,967	984	8.2
Totals	41,720	5,485	13.1	41,911	5,867	14.0
Fraud and forgery (class 6)						
Deception	3,962	1,161	29.3	4,321	1,213	28.1
Forgery and counterfeiting	1,110	166	15.0	733	147	20.1
Making off without payment	3,081	426	13.8	2,889	475	16.4
Other frauds	466	256	54.9	858	666	77.6
Totals	8,619	2,009	23.3	8,801	2,501	28.4
Criminal damage (class 7)						
Arson	2,924	162	5.5	2,598	141	5.4
Petrol bombing offences	216	11	5.1	207	10	4.8
Explosives offences	125	4	3.2	77	3	3.9
Criminal damage / Malicious damage offences	36,527	4,038	11.1	33,462	4,485	13.4
Other criminal damage offences	161	93	57.8	227	133	58.6
Totals	39,953	4,308	10.8	36,571	4,772	13.0
Offences against the state (class 8)						
Offences under anti-terrorism legislation	17	11	64.7	21	14	66.7
Firearms offences	89	32	36.0	161	48	29.8
Offences under the Public Order (NI) Order	427	295	69.1	478	382	79.9
Other offences against the public order	634	54	8.5	1,111	147	13.2
Totals	1,167	392	33.6	1,771	591	33.4
Other notifiable offences (class 9)						
Blackmail	37	8	21.6	39	11	28.2
Kidnapping and false imprisonment	84	19	22.6	74	22	29.7
Drug offences (Total)	1,108	850	76.7	1,924	1,308	68.0
Trafficking offences	210	165	78.6	291	203	69.8
Non-Trafficking offences	898	685	76.3	1,633	1,105	67.7
Dangerous driving	166	131	78.9	276	232	84.1
Other notifiable offences	32	22	68.8	49	20	40.8
Totals	1,427	1,030	72.2	2,362	1,593	67.4
Violent Crime (Classes 1, 2 and 4)	29,757	13,164	44.2	32,421	15,637	48.2
Grand Total (all classes)	139,786	28,142	20.1	142,496	32,806	23.0

¹ Figures for 2002/03 are recorded according to the National Crime Recording Standard, which was introduced on 1st April 2002.

² Substantive theft / unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle is where the vehicle is actually stolen or taken, rather than simply an attempt being made to do so.

³ From 1st April 2002, most attempted thefts / unauthorised taking of motor vehicles are recorded as vehicle interference due to a change in the Home Office Counting Rules.

Notifiable Offences Cleared by Method of Clearance 2001/02 and 2002/03

Method of Clearance	2001/02	2002/03
Charge / Summons	11,808	13,896
Caution	2,079	2,393
Taken into Consideration	439	612
Offender Under Age / Juvenile Advice & Warning	1,646	1,731
Complainant Declined to Prosecute	10,140	12,051
Otherwise disposed of	2,030	2,123
Total Offences Cleared	28,142	32,806
Clearance Rate	20.1%	23.0%

Notifiable Offences Recorded and Cleared by District Command Unit 2001/02 and 2002/03

	2001/02			2002/03 ¹		
	Total Offences Recorded	Total Offences Cleared	% Clearance Rate	Total Offences Recorded	Total Offences Cleared	% Clearance Rate
Antrim	4,282	561	13.1	3,957	604	15.3
Belfast East	7,164	1,240	17.3	8,429	1,395	16.6
Belfast North	12,605	1,265	10.0	12,137	1,899	15.6
Belfast South	18,191	2,399	13.2	18,389	2,917	15.9
Belfast West	6,511	1,191	18.3	6,346	1,253	19.7
Carrickfergus	2,288	479	20.9	2,211	557	25.2
Castlereagh	4,802	804	16.7	4,221	668	15.8
Lisburn	8,527	1,615	18.9	8,558	1,796	21.0
Newtownabbey	6,162	803	13.0	6,671	1,011	15.2
North Down	5,806	1,064	18.3	5,849	1,249	21.4
Urban Region	76,338	11,421	15.0	76,768	13,349	17.4
Ards	5,112	1,232	24.1	4,969	1,287	25.9
Armagh	2,699	813	30.1	2,967	1,032	34.8
Banbridge	2,364	714	30.2	2,624	1,011	38.5
Cookstown	1,971	721	36.6	1,894	569	30.0
Craigavon	6,067	1,300	21.4	6,406	1,390	21.7
Down	4,642	813	17.5	5,245	1,313	25.0
Dungannon & South Tyrone	2,625	920	35.0	2,840	984	34.6
Newry & Mourne	5,177	1,203	23.2	5,517	1,347	24.4
South Region	30,657	7,716	25.2	32,462	8,933	27.5
Ballymena	4,286	1,178	27.5	4,594	1,385	30.1
Ballymoney	1,175	293	24.9	1,294	473	36.6
Coleraine	4,644	1,049	22.6	4,676	1,329	28.4
Fermanagh	2,610	736	28.2	2,539	747	29.4
Foyle	7,799	1,809	23.2	7,888	1,937	24.6
Larne	2,127	522	24.5	1,925	659	34.2
Limavady	1,946	539	27.7	1,979	595	30.1
Magherafelt	1,662	444	26.7	1,673	509	30.4
Moyle	1,017	237	23.3	989	351	35.5
Omagh	2,980	1,163	39.0	3,162	1,335	42.2
Strabane	2,531	1,034	40.9	2,547	1,204	47.3
North Region	32,777	9,004	27.5	33,266	10,524	31.6
Grand Total²	139,786	28,142	20.1	142,496	32,806	23.0

¹ Figures for 2002/03 are recorded according to the National Crime Recording Standard, which was introduced on 1st April 2002.

² Grand Total includes offences for which the offence location was unknown.