

# Trends of crime

## Crime has decreased over the past 10 years

Whilst there is no one definitive source for measuring crime, a number of sources show that crime has decreased since 2008 and has been stable since 2015.

### There is no one definitive source of data on crime: multiple sources are needed

The total amount of crime in society is unknown. However, using a range of data sources, we can be confident in overall trends. There are three main data sources commonly used to determine the level and trends of crime in New Zealand. These are:

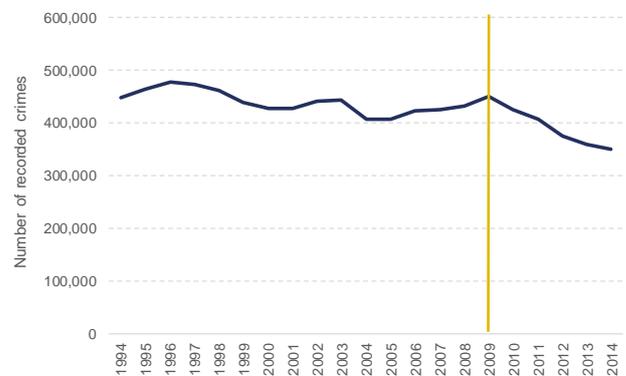
- The New Zealand Crime and Safety Survey which captures the extent and nature of crime and victimisation in New Zealand independent of whether the crime was reported to Police.
- The Recorded Offences Statistics, which was discontinued in 2014, but provided information on crime reported to Police or where Police have determined that an offence is likely to have occurred.
- The Recorded Crime Victims Statistics (RCVS), which began in 2014, and provides information for crime with a clearly discernible victim. This excludes drug, traffic, and some other types of offending.

### Total crime is at a lower level than 10 years ago, however it has remained stable since 2015.

The most recent New Zealand Crime and Safety Survey (NZCASS) showed a statistically significant decrease in the number of crime incidents. The number of households victimised decreased by 36% and the number of adults victimised fell by 30% between 2008 and 2013.

The reductions seen in the Recorded Offences Statistics are consistent with what is observed in NZCASS. From 2009 to the end of the data series in 2014, recorded crime decreased 22% to the lowest level recorded over the past 20 years.

Figure 1: Recorded Crime



More recently, the Recorded Crime Victims Statistics (RCVS) shows that from 2015 to 2018 crime was relatively stable showing there was a 2% increase (256,746 to 263,033) in recorded victimisations.

Figure 2: Recorded Victimisations (Annual)



Trends in specific crime types can vary from the overall trend outlined above.

Date published: 17 AUG 2018

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