

Justice and Defence

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Justice and Defence

- There were 103,360 headline offences in 2003 of which 36% were detected.
- The detection rate for murder fell from 84% in 2002 to 72% in 2003.
- Robberies involving syringes were up by 30% in 2003.
- There were 11,344 arrests for drunk driving in 2003, of which 27% resulted in conviction.
- 4,766 applications for asylum were received in 2004. This was 40% down on 2003.

Introduction

The statistics in this chapter relate to a number of aspects of justice and defence. They have been obtained from the reports of the Garda Síochána, the Courts Service, the Prison Service, the Office of the Refugee Applications Commissioner and the Defence Forces.

Crime figures up to 1999 reflect a former classification of crimes as indictable/non-indictable. With the introduction of the PULSE information system in the Garda Síochána, a new classification of crimes as headline/non-headline has been introduced. The figures for 2000 onwards refer to the new classification of headline crimes. While this reflects to a large extent what in the past was defined as indictable crime, the terms are not identical and so direct comparisons cannot be made between years prior to 2000 and subsequent years. Caution is required generally in looking at trends in crimes and offences over time, particularly when talking about the number of headline offences. There can be changes in recording rules and enforcement practices, and levels of reporting by the public. There were also changes in the definition of offences.

There were 103,360 headline offences recorded in 2003, of which 36 per cent were detected. The detection rate varied considerably by offence group, ranging from only 16 per cent for arson, to 72 per cent for homicide. There were 287 robberies (including burglaries) involving syringes in 2003, up 30 per cent on 2002.

There were 11,344 arrests for drunk driving in 2003, of which 27 per cent resulted in conviction.

There has been a steady increase in the average number of prisoners in custody over the past five years. In 2004, the biggest increase was for those serving life sentences.

There were 3,210 applications for barring orders in 2004. This was a reduction of 35 per cent on the figure for 2000.

4,766 applications for asylum were received in 2004. This was 40% down on 2003.

Table 6.1

The effect of a change in classification from indictable offences to headline offences is outlined in the chapter introduction.

Table 6.4

Rape Section 4 is a broader definition of the offence than that used in previous legal definitions. The victim may be male or female.

Table 6.8

The daily average figures quoted for Fort Mitchel and the Curragh Place of Detention reflect the mothballing of both institutions during 2004. In the case of Fort Mitchel, the operational capacity had been reduced in the preceding months leading up to the closure.

Table 6.11

Annual figures refer to the period from 1 August in the previous year to 31 July in the current year.

In some cases, Interim Barring Orders have been granted on foot of an application for Protection Orders and vice versa.

Table 6.12

The figures in this table refer to first instance recommendations only. Figures for decisions on asylum applications granted and refused in any year may pertain to applications received in earlier years.

Table 6.14

Figures as at 31 March. Personnel in the naval forces have been entered at equivalent army rank.

Table 6.1 Indictable/headline offences and murders recorded

Year	Indictable/headline offences recorded	Number of murders
1950	12,231	9
1955	11,531	4
1960	15,375	3
1965	16,736	7
1970	30,756	11
1975	48,387	23
1980	72,782	21
1985	91,285	25
1990	87,658	17
1995	102,484	43
2000	73,276	39
2001	86,633	52
2002	106,415	52
2003	103,360	45

Source: Garda Síochána Annual Report

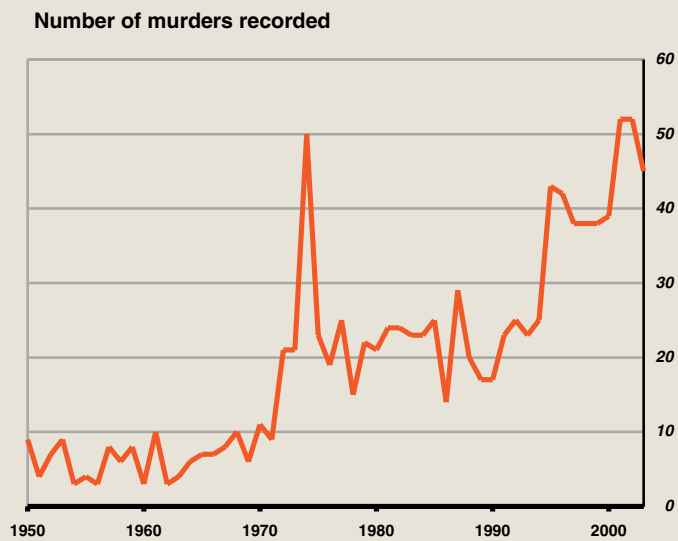


Table 6.2 Headline offences and detection rate, 2003

Offence group	Number		
	Recorded	Detected	Detection rate %
Homicide	101	73	72
Assault	4,738	3,171	67
Sexual	2,463	1,505	61
Arson	1,440	227	16
Drugs	2,715	2,695	99
Larceny	57,870	20,640	36
Burglary	25,733	4,438	17
Robbery	2,794	909	33
Fraud	4,037	2,529	63
Other	1,469	997	68
Total	103,360	37,184	36

Source: Garda Síochána Annual Report

Table 6.3 Homicide victims by age and sex, 2003

Age	Murder		Manslaughter	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0 - 10	0	1	0	0
11 - 20	3	1	0	0
21 - 30	11	4	1	1
31 - 40	13	0	1	1
41 - 50	5	1	1	0
51 - 60	4	0	2	0
61 - 70	0	1	0	0
71 and over	1	0	0	0
Total	37	8	5	2

Source: Garda Síochána Annual Report

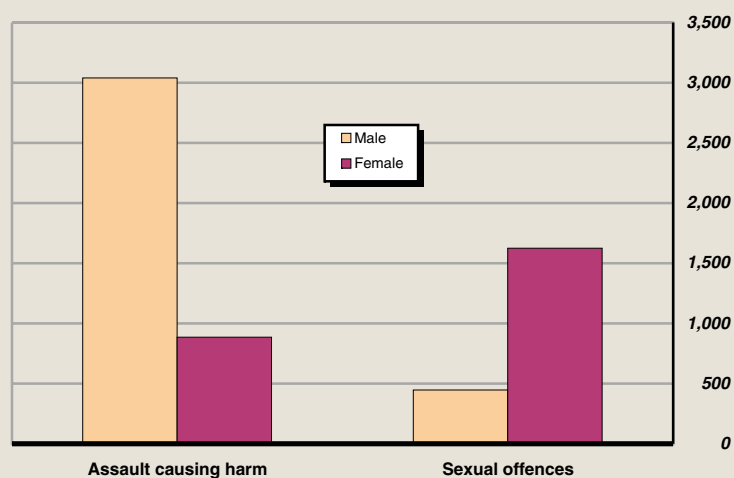
Victims of assault and sexual offences by sex, 2003

Table 6.4 Victims of assault and sexual offences by sex, 2003

Offence	Number		
	Male	Female	Total
Assault causing harm	3,040	886	3,926
Sexual offences	446	1,624	2,070
Sexual assault	320	1,129	1,449
Aggravated sexual assault	1	10	11
Sexual offence involving mentally impaired person	13	10	23
Gross indecency	38	—	38
Buggery	60	18	78
Unlawful carnal knowledge	—	95	95
Rape Section 4	14	41	55
Rape of a female	—	315	315
Incest	—	6	6

Source: Garda Síochána Annual Report

Table 6.5 Robberies and aggravated burglaries

Offence	Number						
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Involving firearms	252	221	290	203	232	364	313
Robbery with use of firearm	88	61	133	152	171	284	251
Aggravated burglary with use of firearm	164	160	157	51	61	80	62
Involving use of syringe	893	442	384	361	371	221	287
Robbery with use of syringe	590	318	274	320	350	204	275
Aggravated burglary with use of syringe	303	124	110	41	21	17	12

Source: Garda Síochána Annual Report

Number of robberies and aggravated burglaries

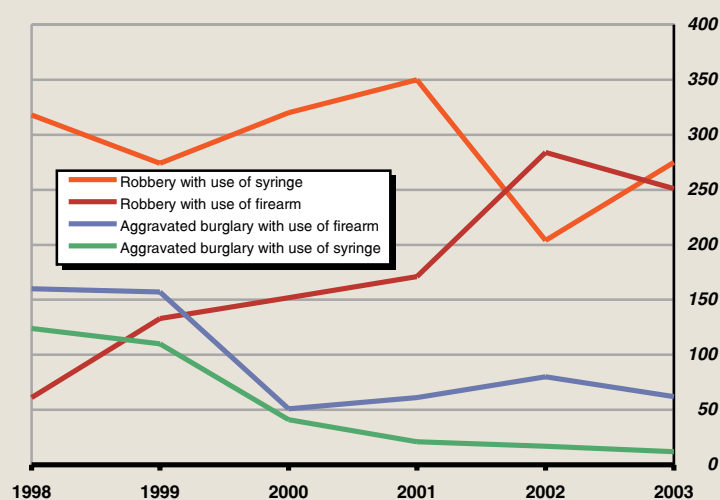


TABLE 6.6

TABLE 6.7

Table 6.6 Arrests and convictions for drink/driving offences

Year	Number of arrests	Number of convictions	Conviction rate
1997	7,541	4,379	58%
1998	8,707	5,756	66%
1999	9,570	5,853	61%
2000	10,433	6,593	63%
2001	12,841	6,790	53%
2002	13,441	5,212	39%
2003	11,344	3,060	27%

Source: Garda Síochána Annual Report

Table 6.7 Numbers in each rank of the Garda Síochána

								Number
Year	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Commissioner ranks	12	13	13	13	13	13	13	14
Chief Superintendents	44	46	46	46	47	47	47	47
Superintendents	163	168	168	169	170	171	173	168
Inspectors	263	262	263	293	289	294	294	291
Sergeants	1,844	1,866	1,876	1,897	1,933	1,928	1,946	1,950
Gardaí	8,462	8,880	9,092	9,222	9,362	9,447	9,545	9,739
Total	10,788	11,235	11,458	11,640	11,814	11,900	12,018	12,209

Source: Garda Síochána Annual Report

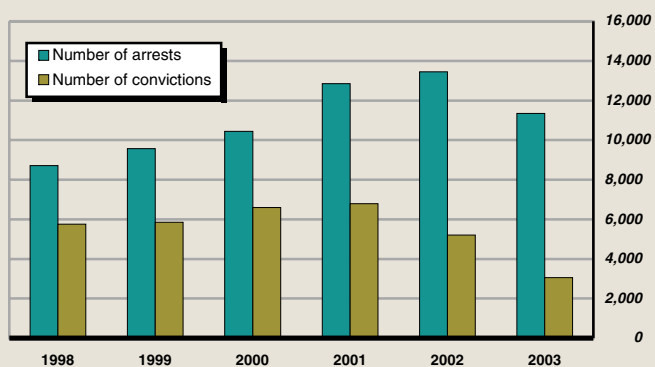
Number of arrests and convictions for drink/driving offences

Table 6.8 Average daily number of prisoners in custody

Institution	Number							
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Arbour Hill	139	139	138	139	135	137	138	138
Castlerea	25	109	195	190	186	193	195	210
Cloverhill	–	–	–	213	374	386	375	392
Cork	268	262	271	267	274	267	268	274
Curragh	72	94	93	94	98	92	98	8
Fort Mitchel	101	101	100	89	95	84	94	6
Limerick (male)	132	182	226	225	171	171	169	247
Limerick (female)	12	12	14	13	14	16	16	13
Loughan House	70	48	56	66	72	70	71	72
Midlands	–	–	–	–	241	375	384	439
Mountjoy (male)	650	729	826	723	504	441	460	485
Mountjoy (female)	51	59	70	59	82	88	81	84
Portlaoise	164	155	148	167	145	137	128	123
St. Patrick's	208	187	194	193	206	179	188	198
Shanganagh Castle	48	41	39	28	27	23	–	–
Shelton Abbey	47	47	46	25	27	47	50	49
Training Unit	85	85	87	89	89	91	86	87
Wheatfield	350	360	368	368	372	368	375	374
Total	2,422	2,610	2,871	2,948	3,112	3,165	3,176	3,199

Source: Irish Prison Service Annual Report

Table 6.9 Prisoners in custody by age and sex, 3 December 2004

Age	Number		
	Male	Female	Total
15-16	18	0	18
17-20	318	7	325
21-24	512	9	521
25-29	570	18	588
30-39	673	23	696
40-49	288	9	297
50 and over	212	3	215
Total	2,591	69	2,660

Source: Irish Prison Service Annual Report

TABLE 6.8

TABLE 6.9

Table 6.10 Prisoners by length of sentence and sex, 3 December 2004

Number

Sentence	Male	Female	Total
Life	187	6	193
10 years or more	165	1	166
5 up to 10 years	514	8	522
3 up to 5 years	600	11	611
2 up to 3 years	271	3	274
1 up to 2 years	202	7	209
6 - 12 months	423	18	441
under 6 months	229	15	244
Total	2,591	69	2,660

Source: Irish Prison Service Annual Report

Age and sex profile of prisoners in custody, 3 December 2004

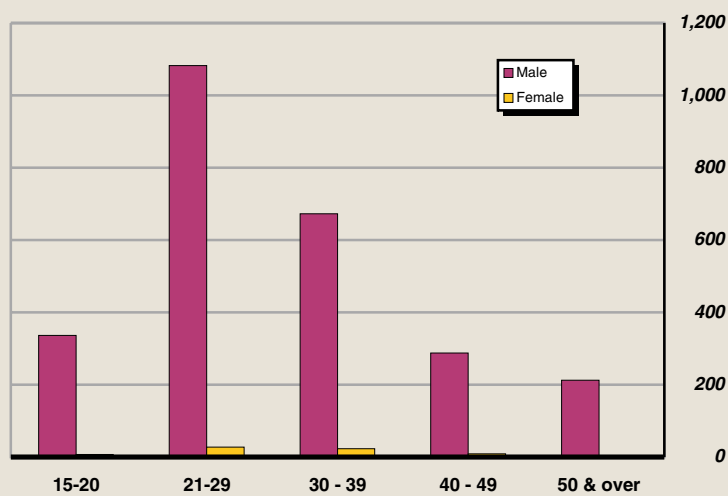


Table 6.11 Applications under the Domestic Violence Act

	Number					
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Barring orders						
Applications	4,668	4,908	4,470	4,067	3,586	3,210
Granted	2,219	2,319	2,067	1,740	1,575	1,295
Protection orders						
Applications	3,619	4,381	4,263	3,677	3,109	3,054
Granted	3,390	3,467	3,711	3,248	2,814	2,810
Safety orders						
Applications	2,039	2,336	2,903	2,814	2,557	2,611
Granted	970	988	1,232	1,187	1,108	987
Interim barring orders						
Applications	1,120	506	1,159	852	629	698
Granted	1,002	415	1,007	706	531	604

Source: Courts Service Annual Report

TABLE 6.11

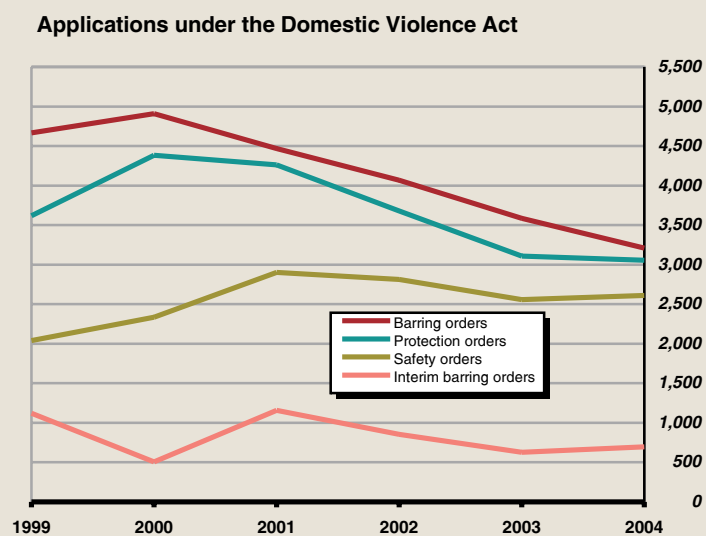


Table 6.12 Details of asylum applications

Year	Applications	Number	
		Granted asylum	Refused asylum
1999	7,724	166	4,737
2000	10,938	211	6,282
2001	10,325	458	6,501
2002	11,634	893	7,469
2003	7,900	345	7,847
2004	4,766	430	6,460

Source: Office of the Refugee Applications Commissioner

Table 6.13 Defence Forces (permanent and reserve)

Year	Number	
	Permanent Defence Force	Reserve Defence Force
1960	8,965	24,569
1965	8,199	21,946
1970	8,574	20,253
1975	12,059	17,221
1980	13,383	19,249
1985	13,778	16,358
1990	13,233	15,982
1995	12,742	16,188
2000	10,958	13,967
2001	10,675	13,076
2002	10,559	13,365
2003	10,498	13,941
2004	10,551	13,167

Source: Defence Forces

Persons granted asylum

Table 6.14 Numbers in each rank of the Defence Forces

Rank	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Commissioned Officers	1,296	1,246	1,243	1,270	1,303	1,336
Lieutenant-General	1	1	1	1	1	1
Major-General	2	3	3	3	3	2
Brigadier-General	9	7	8	9	8	8
Colonel	36	32	37	38	41	42
Lieutenant-Colonel	133	130	131	140	145	151
Commandant	434	444	440	442	423	429
Captain	434	392	355	327	324	336
Lieutenant	176	165	174	211	257	234
2nd Lieutenant	71	72	94	99	101	133
Non-Commissioned Officers	4,102	4,117	3,985	3,962	3,967	3,960
Sergeant-Major	40	45	48	49	47	47
Battalion Quartermaster-Sergeant	46	48	51	48	52	52
Company Sergeant	229	236	248	265	271	256
Company Quartermaster-Sergeant	293	273	258	279	278	279
Sergeant	1,346	1,336	1,291	1,354	1,395	1,364
Corporal	2,148	2,179	2,089	1,967	1,924	1,962
Private	5,715	5,476	5,296	5,194	5,090	5,119
Cadet	96	119	108	133	138	136
Total Permanent Defence Force	11,209	10,958	10,632	10,559	10,498	10,551
Total Reserve Defence Force	14,514	13,967	13,097	13,365	13,941	13,167
Reserve of Officers (First Line)	203	194	179	186	179	177
Reserve of Men (First Line)	280	283	287	267	230	223
Reserve (Second Line) All Ranks	14,031	13,490	12,631	12,912	13,532	12,767

Source: Defence Forces

TABLE 6.14

Numbers in the Defence Forces

