



**An
Phríomh-Oifig
Staidrimh**

Central
Statistics
Office

**Standard Report
on
Methods and Quality
For
Recorded Crime Detection**

<Annual>

Last edited: <06-12-2023>

CENTRAL STATISTICS OFFICE

Skehard Road, Cork

021 4545000

www.cso.ie

Table of Contents

1 Overview

2 General Information

- 2.1 Statistical Category
- 2.2 Area of Activity
- 2.3 Organisational Unit Responsible, Persons to Contact
- 2.4 Objectives and Purpose; History
- 2.5 Periodicity
- 2.6 Client
- 2.7 Users
- 2.8 Legal basis

3 Statistical Concepts, Methods

- 3.1 Subject of the Statistics
- 3.2 Units of Observation/Collection Units/Units of Presentation
- 3.3 Data Sources
- 3.4 Reporting Unit/Respondents
- 3.5 Type of Survey/Process
- 3.6 Characteristics of the Sample/Process
 - 3.6.1 Population and Sampling Frame
 - 3.6.2 Sampling Design
- 3.7 Survey Technique/Data Transfer
- 3.8 Questionnaire (including explanations)
- 3.9 Participation in the Survey
- 3.10 Characteristics of the Survey/Process and its Results
- 3.11 Classifications used
- 3.12 Regional Breakdown of Results

4 Production of the Statistics, Data Processing, Quality Assurance

- 4.1 Data Capture
- 4.2 Coding
- 4.3 Data Editing
- 4.4 Imputation (for Non-Response or Incomplete Data Sets)
- 4.5 Grossing and Weighting
- 4.6 Computation of Outputs Estimation Methods Used
- 4.7 Other Quality Assurance Techniques Used

5 Quality

- 5.1 Relevance
- 5.2 Accuracy and Reliability
 - 5.2.1. Sampling Effects, Representativity
 - 5.2.2. Non-Sampling Effects
 - 5.2.2.1 Quality of the Data Sources used
 - 5.2.2.2 Register Coverage
 - 5.2.2.3 Non-response (Unit and Item)
 - 5.2.2.4 Measurement Errors
 - 5.2.2.5 Processing Errors
 - 5.2.2.6 Model-related Effects
- 5.3 Timeliness and Punctuality
 - 5.3.1 Provisional Results
 - 5.3.2 Final Results
- 5.4 Coherence
- 5.5 Comparability
- 5.6 Accessibility and Clarity
 - 5.6.1 Assistance to Users, Special Analyses
 - 5.6.2 Revisions
 - 5.6.3 Publications
 - 5.6.3.1 Releases, Regular Publications
 - 5.6.3.2 Statistical Reports
 - 5.6.3.3 Internet
 - 5.6.4 Confidentiality

6 Additional documentation and publications

1 Overview

The Central Statistics Office (CSO) compiles and publishes **Recorded Crime Detection** (RCD) statistics in Ireland on an annual basis, usually in the fourth quarter.

RCD are based on **Recorded Crime** statistics and are derived exclusively from the administrative records of An Garda Síochána (AGS).

RCD statistics provide information on the policing outcomes of Recorded Crime incidents, such as where a person or person is identified as having committed an offence and is sanctioned for that offence (e.g., charged, summonsed, cautioned). RCD also includes some detail in respect of Fixed Charge Notices issued by An Garda Síochána.

Statistical output is disseminated via the electronic publication and via PxStat, the online statistical dissemination tool of CSO.

Key users of the outputs are AGS, the Department of Justice and Equality, Policing Authority, NGOs, Eurostat, United Nations, OECD, researchers, media and the general public.

Please note that a categorization of 'Statistics Under Reservation' had been applied to Recorded Crime Statistics in 2018 to reflect the fact that there were data quality issues in the underlying sources used to compile these statistics.

This categorisation has been lifted with the publication of the fifth Review of Recorded Crime Statistics in October 2023. This is possible because An Garda Síochána have introduced a range of quality measures over the last number of years which have resulted in sustained improvement in the quality of the underlying crime data. These changes give a level of assurance to users that they can rely on Recorded Crime Statistics. The CSO will continue to inform users of the quality of the data they are using, and of any particular issues which may need to be noted around time series comparability as they arise.

For further information see our Lifting of Under Reservation categorisation for Recorded Crime Statistics FAQ page at <https://www.cso.ie/en/methods/crime/liftingofunderreservationcategorisationforrecordedcrimestatisticsfaq/>

2 General Information

2.1 Statistical Category

Administrative data (source: An Garda Síochána PULSE dataset).

2.2 Area of Activity

Crime and Criminal Justice. Recorded Crime statistics are the official source of statistical data relating to crimes recorded by An Garda Síochána, Ireland's national policing service.

2.3 Organisational Unit Responsible, Persons to Contact

The Recorded Crime release falls under the remit of the Social and Demographic Statistics Directorate, headed by Richard McMahon, Assistant Director General. Keith McSweeney is the Senior Statistician with responsibility for Social Analysis.

If you have any queries on this report, please contact:

Jim Dalton

Tel: +353214535623

Email: jim.dalton@cs0.ie

Felix Coleman

Tel: +353214535129

Email: felix.coleman@cs0.ie

2.4 Objectives and Purpose; History

Recorded Crime Detection (RCD) provide information on the policing outcomes of Recorded Crime incidents, such as where a person or person is identified as having committed an offence and is sanctioned for that offence (e.g., charged, summonsed, cautioned). The first statistical release on detections was in 2019, for reference year 2018.

2.5 Periodicity

Released annually, (based on data extracted in September, for consistency).

2.6 Client

Produced to meet national user needs. There is currently no Eurostat regulation for the data.

2.7 Users

An Garda Síochána, Department of Justice & Equality, Policing Authority, policymakers, agencies and NGOs, international organisations (e.g., Eurostat, United Nations, OECD) members of the public, media, researchers.

2.8 Legal basis

Section 47 of the Garda Síochána Act 2005 makes provision for information concerning offences, criminal proceedings etc. to be made available to the CSO. Activities of the CSO are governed by the Statistics Act 1993.

3 Statistical Concepts, Methods

3.1 Subject of the Statistics

Crime incidents reported to or which become known to An Garda Síochána which are detected (i.e. suspected offender identified and sanctioned)

3.2 Units of Observation/Collection Units/Units of Presentation

The principle counting unit for crimes used in Recorded Crime statistics is the crime incident (see <https://www.garda.ie/en/about-us/publications/policy-documents/guide-to-how-crime-is-counted-and-recorded.pdf> for definition).

CSO counts valid, primary, crime incidents recorded within Ireland.

3.3 Data Sources

Crime incident data from PULSE (Police Using Leading Systems Effectively), the crime incident database of An Garda Síochána, Ireland's national policing service.

3.4 Reporting Unit/Respondents

3.5 Type of Survey/Process

Administrative Data.

3.6 Characteristics of the Sample/Process

3.6.1 Population and Sampling Frame

The data source is a census of administrative records.

3.6.2 Sampling Design

Not applicable.

3.7 Survey Technique/Data Transfer

A secure VPN (virtual private network) was created between the CSO and An Garda Síochána for the electronic transfer of data between the two organisations on a regular basis.

3.8 Questionnaire (including explanations)

Not applicable.

3.9 Participation in the Survey

Not applicable.

3.10 Characteristics of the Survey/Process and its Results

Not applicable

3.11 Classifications used

Recorded Crime statistics are disaggregated by crime incident type, by the time period of the date the incident became known to AGS, and by Garda administrative areas.

The Recorded Crime publications use a condensed version of the Irish Crime Classification System (ICCS) with elements of Group 4 (Dangerous or Negligent Acts), and all of Groups 14 (Road and Traffic Offences (Not Elsewhere Classified)) and 16 (Offences Not Elsewhere Classified) removed. Please see following link for further information:

https://www.cso.ie/en/media/csoie/methods/recordedcrime/ICCSq_V2.0.pdf

3.12 Regional Breakdown of Results

Crime incidents are classified geographically using the relevant Garda subdistrict (station) and statistics are then aggregated up to Division and Region.

Data in the Recorded Crime Detection publication includes a breakdown by Garda Region.

4 Production of the Statistics, Data Processing, Quality Assurance

4.1 Data Capture

Crime incident records are created and maintained by AGS on PULSE. See

<https://www.garda.ie/en/about-us/publications/policy-documents/guide-to-how-crime-is-counted-and-recorded.pdf>

The CSO receives electronically a copy of PULSE incident record microdata, with a subset of data fields once each quarter and updates all statistical records with information as contained in the most recent dataset.

4.2 Coding

4.3 Data Editing

Up to Q4 2017, CSO carried out two edits on the source data for statistical purposes. One related to the counting of sex and fraud offences in a series where there is the same victim and same offender. The second related to age-specific offences e.g., abduction vs kidnapping.

Since Q4 2017, CSO implements an automatic check on sex and fraud offences (Groups 2 and 9) reported between 1 January 2003 and 30 June 2017 to reconcile scenarios where a continuous series involving the same victim and same offender would be counted multiple times due to how they are recorded in the source data. The edit is for statistical purposes only and is in accordance with the Crime Counting Rules. An Garda Síochána introduced additional quality control procedures for incidents reported after 1 July 2017. These quality control procedures negate the need for CSO to continue to implement the automatic correction.

Since Q4 2017, CSO no longer edits age-specific offences reported after 1 July 2017. This was due to the absence of any corrections for several years due to better data collection. A correction is still applied to errors found in incidents reported prior to 1 July 2017.

4.4 Imputation (for Non-Response or Incomplete Data Sets)

No imputation is done.

4.5 Grossing and Weighting

Not applicable.

4.6 Computation of Outputs, Estimation Methods Used

Not applicable.

4.7 Other Quality Assurance Techniques Used

Not applicable.

5 Quality

5.1 Relevance

Recorded Crime statistics provide information relating to the frequency, type and distribution of crimes as recorded by An Garda Síochána (AGS) on its PULSE (Police Using Leading Systems Effectively) crime incident database system.

5.2 Accuracy and Reliability

5.2.1. Sampling Effect & representativeness

Not applicable.

5.2.2. Non-Sampling Effects

5.2.2.1 Quality of the Data Sources used

Break in series pre and post 2018

AGS introduced new data governance controls targeted at improving data quality in the recording of detections in 2018. The implementation of these controls supports more reliable statistical outputs, but also marks a break-in-series for measuring crime detection rates in Ireland. Detection rates for time periods prior to 2018 are not comparable with figures published since. Indeed, the timing of the changes (25th Feb 2018) mean that data for reference year 2018 includes a portion of the year where the old system was still in use. Statistical users should consider this when comparing 2018 with subsequent years.

Lifting of the ‘Under Reservation’ designation

The CSO (Central Statistics Office) has carried out five reviews of the accuracy of Garda PULSE data. The most recent review based on Q1 2023 data was published in October 2023. The quality reports are available on the CSO website at the following location:

<https://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/crimeandjustice/reviewofthequalityofrecordedcrimestatistics/>

In the 2023 report, the chapter ‘CSO Assessment of Data Quality’ provides the latest assessment of the quality of the data by the CSO. The metrics in Table 3.1 indicate high levels of quality in the indicators that were measured.

In addition, as part of the latest review (October 2023) the CSO has lifted the ‘**Under Reservation**’ designation from all Recorded Crime data disseminated after Quarter 1 (Q1) 2023.

CSO made this decision because the terms of its various key recommendations from the *Quality Improvement Proposal* from 2018 and Quality Reviews have been met, principally:

- The development and implementation of a formal data quality management system for PULSE that ensures fit-for-purpose crime data (developments throughout 2022 & 2023 culminating in quality checking and publishing of those results, with a focus on risk management).
- An independent review conducted on behalf of AGS which found evidence of good controls for the acknowledged risks to data collection and quality.
- There is now a senior manager (appointed in 2019) within AGS who has overall responsibility for data quality.
- The provision of a comprehensive and publicly available document explaining how crime is recorded (2020).

In addition, a new Memorandum of Understanding has been agreed between CSO and AGS which explicitly outlines expectations concerning AGS quality checking and reporting of same. The standard quality checks of PULSE data carried out as part of this fifth CSO Quality Review show evidence of consistent high data quality levels.

AGS has worked over the past number of years to advance the assurance levels which can be provided around Garda PULSE data, and in particular the quality management developments of 2022 and 2023. This work has seen the development of quality assurance processes by AGS over the period which has culminated in the implementation of a more formal data quality management system by AGS.

5.2.2.2 Register Coverage

Not applicable.

5.2.2.3 Non-response (Unit and Item)

Not applicable.

5.2.2.4 Measurement Errors

Not applicable.

5.2.2.5 Processing Errors

Not applicable.

5.2.2.6 Model-related Effects

Not applicable.

5.3 Timeliness and Punctuality

5.3.1 Provisional Results

Not applicable.

5.3.2 Final Results

Crime Detection statistics are published annually based on data extracted in September of the year of publication for consistency. Statistics for previous periods are revised on each publication, due to the potential for reclassification/invalidation etc. of incidents.

5.4 Coherence

Recorded Crime statistics refer only to crime incidents reported to or which become known to An Garda Síochána and recorded as such. Some offence types are processed by organisations other than the Gardaí (e.g., revenue, local authorities etc).

Recorded Crime statistics are used to compile further statistics on victims and suspected offenders, see

<https://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/crimeandjustice/recordedcrimevictimsandsuspectedoffenders/> ,

and on detection rates, see

<https://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/crimeandjustice/recordedcrimedetection/> .

Other statistics, such as the CSO Crime and Victimization (C&V) Survey, see <https://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/crimeandjustice/crimeandvictimisation> are derived from an alternative source and will not correspond with Recorded Crime statistics. One of the purposes of C&V is to estimate the extent to which crime is under reported to An Garda Síochána.

5.5 Comparability

Several factors have the potential to influence the comparability of Recorded Crime statistics over time and across Garda geographical areas. These include but are not limited to:

- Changes in Garda operational activity
- Changes to legislation
- Changes in reporting levels by victims
- Changes to Garda station boundaries

Differences in legislation, definitions and recording procedures in different countries will greatly affect international comparisons.

5.6 Accessibility and Clarity

5.6.1 Assistance to Users, Special Analyses

Data on data collection process at source: <https://www.garda.ie/en/about-us/publications/policy-documents/guide-to-how-crime-is-counted-and-recorded.pdf> .

The CSO publication is available on our website and includes detailed notes on the information supplied. For special analysis, please contact crime@cs0.ie.

5.6.2 Revisions

Statistics are published annually, based on September data extract for consistency. Statistics for previous periods are revised on each publication, due to the potential for classification/invalidation etc. of incidents.

Revisions due to processing errors are notified in line with policy.

5.6.3 Publications

All Crime & Criminal Justice publications are available at the following link:

<https://www.cs0.ie/en/statistics/crimeandjustice/>

In addition, users can access the data through the CSOs data dissemination tool – PxStat at the following link:

<https://data.cs0.ie/#>

To access crime & criminal justice data, select People and Society and then Crime & Justice.

EU level data is available via the Eurostat website:

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/crime/database>

5.6.4 Confidentiality

All data are treated as strictly confidential in accordance with the Statistics Act, 1993.

6 Additional documentation and publications

Additional information relating to An Garda Síochána can be obtained from their website

www.garda.ie