

# 7

## Crime

- Controlled drug offences increased by over a quarter (26.0%) between 2007 and 2008.
- In 2008, the majority of prisoners (54.2%) were aged 29 years and under.
- In 2008 there were 14,411 Gardaí, up from 13,755 in 2007.
- 14.6% of households in urban areas were victims of crime compared with 6.3% of households in rural areas.

## Contents

Introductory text	115
<b>Table 7.1</b> Recorded offences	117
<b>Table 7.2</b> Location of robbery and aggravated burglary incidents where firearm or knife/sharp instrument involved, 2007	118
<b>Table 7.3</b> Traffic offence detections	118
<b>Table 7.4</b> Persons aged 18 and over by their perception of crime	119
<b>Table 7.5</b> Households classified by whether they experienced crime, 2003 and 2006	120
<b>Table 7.6</b> Sentenced prisoners in custody by length of sentence and sex, 1 September 2008	121
<b>Table 7.7</b> Sentenced prisoners in custody by age and sex, 1 September 2008	121
<b>Table 7.8</b> Numbers in each rank of the Defence Forces	122
<b>Table 7.9</b> Numbers in each rank of the Garda Síochána	122
<b>Table 7.10</b> Type and frequency of seizures of particular drugs	123

## Introduction

The statistics in this chapter relate to a number of aspects of justice and defence. They have been obtained from the Garda Síochána, the Prison Service, the Defence Forces, the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform and the Central Statistics Office. Results from the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS) ad hoc module on Crime and Victimization are also included.

Crime figures are provided for the number of offences recorded by the Garda Síochána. These are based on the Irish Crime Classification System (ICCS), launched in April 2008, but exclude 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). Details of this new classification system can be found at [www.cso.ie](http://www.cso.ie). All crime figures are provisional and may be revised, due to the nature of reporting and recording, subsequent to this publication.

The Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS) is a large-scale, nationwide survey of households in Ireland. While the primary purpose of the QNHS is to collect information on employment and unemployment it also includes modules each quarter on social topics of interest. A module on Crime and Victimization was included in the three months interviewing period from September to November 2006. This module was carried out in the same period in 1998 and 2003. The module contained over fifty questions on crime-related topics, divided into two main sections – household and individual questions.

## Technical Notes

### Table 7.1

Table 7.1 figures are based on data received from the Garda Síochána at the end of quarter 2, 2009. These figures may be updated in further CSO releases.

### Table 7.2

Where a weapon is 'involved', that weapon was present on the scene but may not necessarily have been used.

### Tables 7.4 and 7.5

Tables 7.4 and 7.5 provide an insight into the incidence and perception of certain crime types in Ireland and are taken from the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS) ad hoc modules on Crime and Victimization as detailed in the introduction.

### Table 7.5

'Any crime' refers to victims of burglary, motor vehicle crime, theft of bicycles or vandalism.

### Tables 7.6 and 7.7

Figures exclude non-criminal prisoners (eg immigration detainees) and those on trial and on remand.

### Tables 7.8 and 7.9

The given 'per 100,000 population' figures are calculated based on 2002 and 2006 census figures and interim population estimates.

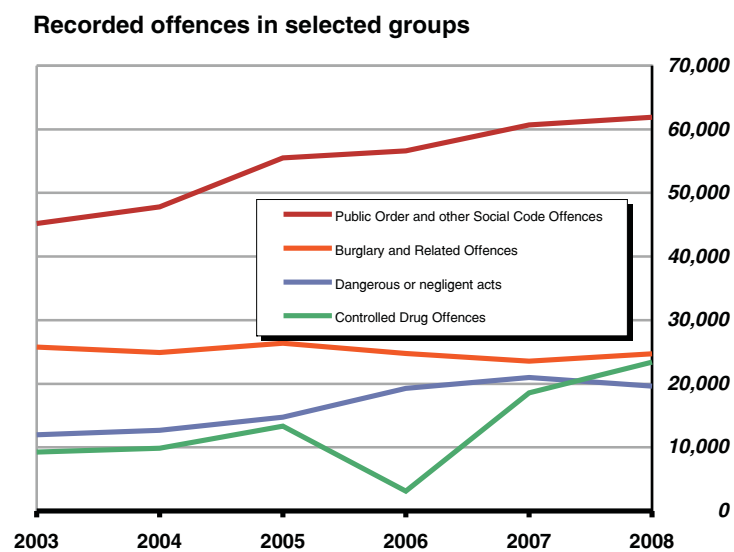
### Table 7.10

Figures are based on data provided by the Forensic Science Laboratory on 21st May 2008.

**Table 7.1 Recorded offences**

Offence	Number					
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Homicide offences	82	97	126	137	133	89
Sexual offences	1,989	1,756	1,804	1,420	1,369	1,418
Attempts/threats to murder, assaults, harassments and related offences	13,534	13,281	13,698	15,442	17,585	19,254
Dangerous or negligent acts	11,970	12,687	14,723	19,281	21,009	19,613
Kidnapping and related offences	97	75	73	80	106	75
Robbery, extortion and hijacking offences	2,916	2,715	2,425	2,487	2,173	2,305
Burglary and related offences	25,756	24,914	26,378	24,783	23,566	24,707
Theft and related offences	73,441	72,205	73,088	74,501	75,218	76,976
Fraud, deception and related offences	4,147	3,668	4,018	14,236	5,851	5,434
Controlled drug offences	9,258	9,868	13,329	3,119	18,583	23,422
Weapons and explosives offences	1,919	2,154	2,560	43,587	3,597	4,020
Damage to property and to the environment	34,035	37,047	39,737	43,570	43,286	44,797
Public order and other social code offences	45,166	47,793	55,489	56,626	60,714	61,919
Offences against Government, justice procedures and organisation of crime	6,837	6,454	7,792	9,481	10,942	13,173

Source: CSO



## Crime

**Table 7.2 Location of robbery and aggravated burglary incidents where firearm or knife/sharp instrument involved, 2007**

Number and percentage

Location	Firearm involved	Knife/sharp instrument
House/flat	30	89
Bank	11	9
Post office	28	9
Betting office	45	25
Credit union	2	7
Licensed premises	11	14
Shop/stall	73	177
Petrol station	23	32
Hotel	5	7
Restaurant	4	12
Supermarket	10	6
Street/road	26	221
Other	66	198
<b>Total</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>806</b>
<b>Percentage of robberies/aggravated burglaries</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>34.4</b>

Source: CSO

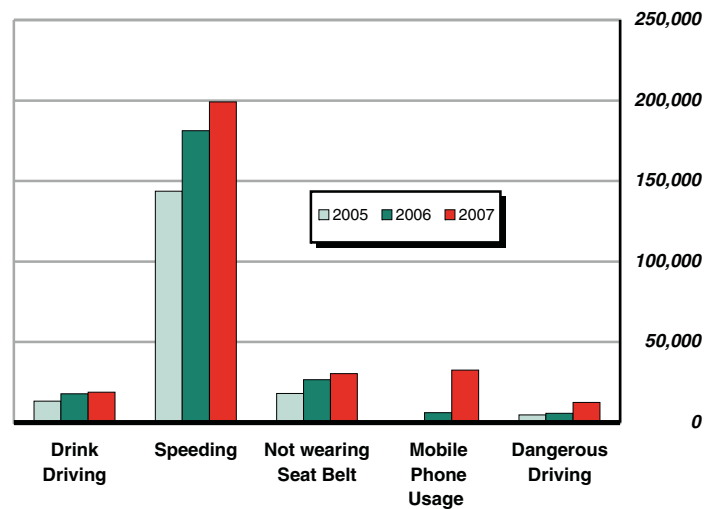
**Table 7.3 Traffic offence detections**

Number

Offence	2005	2006	2007
Drink driving	13,370	17,868	18,855
Speeding	143,651	181,335	199,030
Seat belt wearing non-compliance	18,084	26,687	30,459
Mobile phone usage (offence since 1 September, 2006)	n/a	6,171	32,672
Dangerous driving	4,786	5,810	12,502

Source: An Garda Síochána

**Traffic offence detections**



**Table 7.4 Persons aged 18 and over by their perception of crime**

						%
	Very serious problem	Serious problem	Fairly serious problem	Not a serious problem	Not a problem	Total
<b>Males</b>						
1998	32.5	39.8	24.0	3.3	0.4	<b>100.0</b>
2003	41.6	35.2	19.6	3.2	0.4	<b>100.0</b>
2006	39.9	36.5	19.3	3.9	0.5	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Females</b>						
1998	43.8	36.6	17.7	1.7	0.2	<b>100.0</b>
2003	51.2	32.7	14.5	1.5	0.2	<b>100.0</b>
2006	51.8	33.4	13.1	1.6	0.1	<b>100.0</b>
<b>18-24 years</b>						
1998	28.3	40.2	27.4	3.7	0.5	<b>100.0</b>
2003	32.6	38.8	23.9	4.2	0.5	<b>100.0</b>
2006	30.7	37.8	25.0	5.9	0.7	<b>100.0</b>
<b>25-44 years</b>						
1998	35.3	39.7	22.2	2.5	0.3	<b>100.0</b>
2003	42.1	35.9	18.9	2.7	0.3	<b>100.0</b>
2006	40.5	37.1	18.5	3.5	0.3	<b>100.0</b>
<b>45-64 years</b>						
1998	42.0	37.1	18.6	2.1	0.2	<b>100.0</b>
2003	52.7	31.7	14.1	1.4	0.2	<b>100.0</b>
2006	52.3	33.8	12.6	1.2	0.1	<b>100.0</b>
<b>65 years and over</b>						
1998	49.6	34.1	14.4	1.6	0.2	<b>100.0</b>
2003	60.7	27.9	10.2	1.1	0.1	<b>100.0</b>
2006	63.0	28.3	8.0	0.5	0.1	<b>100.0</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>						
1998	38.3	38.2	20.8	2.5	0.3	<b>100.0</b>
2003	46.5	33.9	17.0	2.3	0.3	<b>100.0</b>
2006	45.9	34.9	16.2	2.7	0.3	<b>100.0</b>

Source: CSO

## Crime

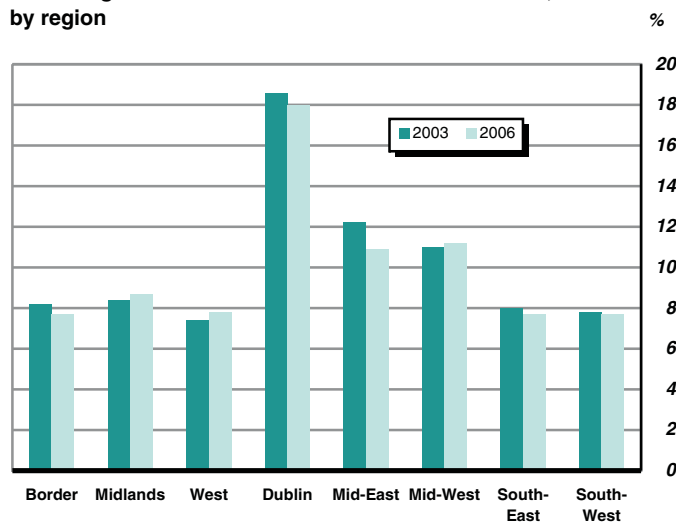
**Table 7.5 Households classified by whether they experienced crime, 2003 and 2006**

Number and percentage

	2003				2006			
	All households	Household burglary	Vandalism	Victims of any crime	All households	Household burglary	Vandalism	Victims of any crime
	'000	%	%	%	'000	%	%	%
<b>Region</b>								
Border	154.3	1.9	4.4	8.2	166.6	1.7	4.1	7.7
Midland	79.7	4.4	2.3	8.4	88.4	4.2	2.8	8.7
West	139.1	1.9	3.2	7.4	151.2	1.9	3.4	7.8
Dublin	400.1	4.8	7.8	18.6	428.0	4.4	8.1	18.0
Mid-East	140.7	3.9	4.9	12.2	154.6	3.9	3.6	10.9
Mid-West	121.1	3.2	4.0	11.0	132.4	3.5	5.1	11.2
South-East	150.4	3.6	2.5	8.0	167.4	3.3	2.5	7.7
South-West	208.8	1.8	3.5	7.8	225.2	1.9	3.1	7.7
<b>Household composition</b>								
1 adult, no children	300.3	3.3	4.0	9.1	331.7	3.2	4.1	8.9
2 adults, no children	349.3	3.1	4.5	10.1	388.1	3.2	4.5	9.8
3 or more adults, no children	264.1	3.3	4.9	13.0	284.1	2.9	5.2	12.5
1 adult with children	52.8	5.3	9.5	17.8	60.4	3.3	7.8	14.6
2 adults with 1-3 children	263.4	3.2	5.1	12.6	284.2	3.4	5.1	12.8
Other households with children	164.3	3.8	4.9	14.1	165.2	3.6	5.0	14.0
<b>Urban/rural location</b>								
Urban areas	862.8	3.9	6.6	14.8	912.8	3.7	6.7	14.6
Rural areas	531.4	2.5	2.0	6.5	601.0	2.5	2.0	6.3
<b>All households</b>	<b>1,394.3</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>11.7</b>	<b>1,513.8</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>11.3</b>

Source: CSO

**Percentage of households that were victims of crime, by region**





**Table 7.6 Sentenced prisoners in custody by length of sentence and sex, 1 September 2008**

*Number and percentage*

Length of sentence	Male		Female		Total	%
	Number	%	Number	%		
Life	249	9	5	8	254	9
10 years or more	230	8	3	5	233	8
5 to 10 years	677	24	14	23	691	24
3 to 5 years	586	21	13	21	599	21
2 to 3 years	313	11	11	18	324	11
1 to 2 years	348	12	6	10	354	12
6 to 12 months	293	10	5	8	298	10
Under 6 months	115	4	4	7	119	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,811</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,872</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Irish Prison Service

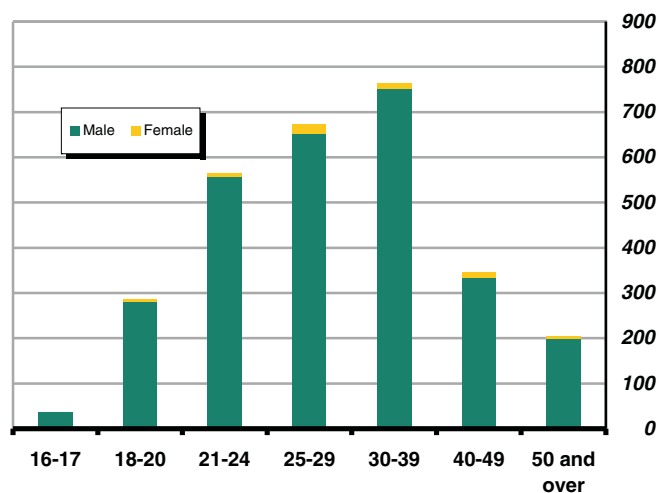
**Table 7.7 Sentenced prisoners in custody by age and sex, 1 September 2008**

*Number*

Age	Male	Female	Total
16-17	36	0	36
18-20	280	5	285
21-24	558	7	565
25-29	651	21	672
30-39	752	12	764
40-49	335	11	346
50 and over	199	5	204
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,811</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>2,872</b>

Source: Irish Prison Service

**Age and sex of prisoners, 1 September 2008**



## Crime

**Table 7.8 Numbers in each rank of the Defence Forces**

Rank	Number							
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
<b>Commissioned Officers</b>	<b>1,243</b>	<b>1,270</b>	<b>1,303</b>	<b>1,336</b>	<b>1,348</b>	<b>1,360</b>	<b>1,345</b>	<b>1,378</b>
Lieutenant-General	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Major-General	3	3	3	2	2	2	3	3
Brigadier-General	8	9	8	8	8	8	10	9
Colonel	37	38	41	42	43	43	44	45
Lieutenant-Colonel	131	140	145	151	149	153	159	155
Commandant	440	442	423	429	423	401	391	380
Captain	355	327	324	336	365	393	358	361
Lieutenant	174	211	257	234	235	239	226	289
2nd Lieutenant	94	99	101	133	122	120	153	135
<b>Non-Commissioned Officers</b>	<b>3,985</b>	<b>3,962</b>	<b>3,967</b>	<b>3,960</b>	<b>3,934</b>	<b>3,919</b>	<b>3,817</b>	<b>3,845</b>
Sergeant-Major	48	49	47	47	46	45	44	45
Battalion Quartermaster-Sergeant	51	48	52	52	53	48	45	50
Company Sergeant	248	265	271	256	260	263	254	257
Company Quartermaster-Sergeant	258	279	278	279	278	271	281	281
Sergeant	1,291	1,354	1,395	1,364	1,383	1,354	1,400	1,399
Corporal	2,089	1,967	1,924	1,962	1,914	1,938	1,793	1,813
Private	5,296	5,194	5,090	5,119	5,038	5,088	5,162	5,087
Cadet	108	133	138	136	125	112	110	98
<b>TOTAL PERMANENT DEFENCE FORCE</b>	<b>10,632</b>	<b>10,559</b>	<b>10,498</b>	<b>10,551</b>	<b>10,445</b>	<b>10,479</b>	<b>10,434</b>	<b>10,408</b>
<b>Permanent personnel per 100,000 population</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>241</b>
<b>Total Reserve Defence Force</b>	<b>13,097</b>	<b>13,365</b>	<b>13,941</b>	<b>13,167</b>	<b>10,368</b>	<b>9,506</b>	<b>8,793</b>	<b>8,042</b>
Reserve of Officers (First Line)	179	186	179	177	177	155	144	142
Reserve of Men (First Line)	287	267	230	223	224	217	241	229
Reserve (Second Line) All Ranks	12,631	12,912	13,532	12,767	9,967	9,134	8,408	7,671

Source: Defence Forces

**Table 7.9 Numbers in each rank of the Garda Síochána**

Year	Number										
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Commissioner ranks	13	13	13	13	13	13	14	15	14	15	15
Chief Superintendents	46	46	46	47	47	47	47	47	46	52	52
Superintendents	168	168	169	170	171	173	168	173	166	185	187
Inspectors	262	263	293	289	294	294	291	289	287	330	344
Sergeants	1,866	1,876	1,897	1,933	1,928	1,946	1,950	1,926	1,945	2,083	2,229
Gardaí	8,880	9,092	9,222	9,362	9,447	9,545	9,739	9,815	10,496	11,090	11,584
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,235</b>	<b>11,458</b>	<b>11,640</b>	<b>11,814</b>	<b>11,900</b>	<b>12,018</b>	<b>12,209</b>	<b>12,265</b>	<b>12,954</b>	<b>13,755</b>	<b>14,411</b>
<b>Garda personnel per 100,000 population</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>302</b>

Source: Garda Síochána

**Table 7.10 Type and frequency of seizures of particular drugs**

Quantity and number

Drug		2007		2008	
		Quantity seized	No. of seizures	Quantity seized	No. of seizures
Alprazolam	Tablets	217	16	4,004	41
Amphetamine	Powder (gms)	58,217	235 <sup>1</sup>	8,003	126 <sup>1</sup>
	Tablets	10,471		946	
Cannabis	Resin (gms)	1,235,352	3,166	5,229,142	3,126
	Herbal (gms)	763,120	1,910	928,934	2,366
	Plants	1,272	100	3,509	160
Cocaine	Powder (gms)	1,751,802	1,749	167,372	1,310
Diamporphine (Heroin)	Powder (gms)	146,586	1,698	207,332	1,611
Diazepam	Tablets	71,483	166 <sup>1</sup>	67,675	162 <sup>1</sup>
	Powder (gms)	1,988		46	
Dihydrocodeine	Tablets	358	16	114	10
Ecstasy	Tablets	204,806	1,173 <sup>1</sup>	96,224	730 <sup>1</sup>
	Powder and Crystals (gms)	13,253		1,203	
Ephedrine	Tablets	695	11 <sup>1</sup>	253	6 <sup>1</sup>
	Capsules	47		0	
	Powder (gms)	3		1	
Flunitrazepam (Rohypnol)	Tablets	76	4	27	7
Flurazepam	Tablets	0		41	26
	Capsules	3,608	24	120	
LSD	Units	140	13	120	10
Methadone	Liquid (ml)	6,022	21 <sup>1</sup>	1,707	9
	Tablets	900		3,147	21
Methylamphetamine	Powder (gms)	41	9	4,632	25
Temazepam	Tablets	4	3	12,306	7

<sup>1</sup> This figure represents the combined number of relevant seizures.  
 Source: Forensic Science Laboratory, Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform

**Permanent personnel per 100,000 population**

